



< Back

7 Messages

Definers -- Clips



We're fully registered...

Registration Details for Complete Record

Entity Name: DEFINERS CORP

DUNS Number: 076234313

CAGE: 7YAE9

Address:

1500 WILSON BLVD # 5

ARLINGTON, VA 22209-2458

UNITED STATES

Purpose of Registration: All Awards

Registration Status: Active

Expiration Date: 08/31/2018

Address Update Required: No

UPDATE ENTITY

VIEW

DEACTIVATE

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 3:29

PM Wilcox, John

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 6:33 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Jahan

Can you forward me the screen shot so I can send it to contracts thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
202-253-7056 (mobile)

From: Wilcox, Jahan

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:27 PM

To: Joe Pounder <jpounder@definerscorp.com>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Definers -- Clips

Great. Adding Nancy and Liz.

On Sep 28, 2017, at 4:11 PM, Joe Pounder <jpounder@definerscorp.com> wrote:

We're fully registered...

<Screen Shot 2017-09-28 at 4.23.59 PM.png>

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 3:29 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

From: Grantham, Nancy

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:29 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Definers -- Clips

HI –

Working with contracts on this – here is the remaining issue that the contracting officer brought to me yesterday --

Specifically, the vendor is not registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). In order for any vendor to receive a contract from the federal government, they must be registered in this system. The vendor seems to be reluctant to register.

George had been working with the vendor on this. I have a call into the vendor as they may need assistance in completing the forms.

Will update you as soon as I hear from the vendor.

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
202-253-7056 (mobile)

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:02 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Definers -- Clips
Importance: High

Where are we on this and when can we get this going? Today is a day where we could really use their help capturing clips in real time. This is very important and our wait and the process to do this has been way too long. Thank you!

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: [202.309.0934](tel:202.309.0934)
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

--

Joe Pounder
jpounder@definerscorp.com
571-290-5460

To: Lynn, Tricia[lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Fri 10/20/2017 6:20:00 PM
Subject: FW: Sole Source JOFOC for OPA Media Relations Contract
Sole Source JOFOC OA (003) 082517 (002).docx

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 5:35 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Sole Source JOFOC for OPA Media Relations Contract

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Mon 11/13/2017 1:56:37 PM
Subject: RE: Latest SOW

If you're good with the SOW as it stands, I'm happy to send it along. I'm not sure if **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2017 8:49 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Latest SOW

Thx. Can we send to Jody and Donna or **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**? Thx ng
Sent from my iPhone
On Nov 8, 2017, at 4:25 PM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Nancy—

Minus CO and Definers input, here's the final version.

Have a great night!

--Tricia

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 1:02 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Latest SOW

Hi Nancy—

I have what I think are **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5** I've attached it here—the comments are highlighted in blue—but let me know if you'd like to talk through it.

Once I make whatever changes are needed based on your comments, I think it's time to **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 Sound good?

Just FYI, I still need information from Definers in order **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5** I sent the request on Monday afternoon and pinged her just now.

Thanks!

--Tricia

Tricia Lynn
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
Office: 202.564.2615

<SOW.Final.11.08.17.docx>

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Wed 11/8/2017 9:25:21 PM
Subject: RE: Latest SOW
[SOW.Final.11.08.17.docx](#)

Nancy—

Minus CO and Definers input, here’s the final version.

Have a great night!

--Tricia

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 1:02 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Latest SOW

Hi Nancy—

I have what I think are **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5** I’ve attached it here—the comments are highlighted in blue—but let me know if you’d like to talk through it.

Once I make whatever changes are needed based on your comments, I think **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**
Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 Sound good?

Just FYI, I still need information from Definers in order to **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5** I sent the request on Monday afternoon and pinged her just now.

Thanks!

--Tricia

Tricia Lynn
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
Office: 202.564.2615

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Wed 11/8/2017 5:59:04 PM
Subject: Latest SOW
[SOW.Final.11.08.17.docx](#)

Hi Nancy—

I have what I think are: **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5** I've attached it here—the comments are highlighted in blue—but let me know if you'd like to talk through it.

Once I make whatever changes are needed based on your comments, I think it's **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**
Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 Sound good?

Just FYI, I still need information from Definers in order to **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5** I sent the request on Monday afternoon and pinged her just now.

Thanks!

--Tricia

Tricia Lynn
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
Office: 202.564.2615

To: Lynn, Tricia[lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Mon 10/23/2017 3:21:02 PM
Subject: FW: SOW Corrections to Edits
Evaluation Criteria sample 10-11-2017dd.docx
Scanned Jody Edits SOW and JOFOC.pdf

See jody comments on the attached

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:38 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Subject: SOW Corrections to Edits

Hi Nancy

I sent you the word documents shortly after our meeting on October 4. Following up on changes discussed in October 4 meeting, Have you completed/incorporated changes we discussed in SOW and JOFOC?

For instance:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

We also discussed that **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5** The next meeting is
October 18, 2017 at 8:00am.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460

202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

To: Quarles, Michael[Quarles.Michael@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tue 12/5/2017 6:37:30 PM
Subject: Re: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Thx

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 5, 2017, at 1:29 PM, Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Nancy,

Just spoke with Keith about this matter. I explain we have Deliberative Process / Ex. 5
Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Keith is meeting with Donna and others to discuss Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 I am reaching out to
Definers for an updated quote right now.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 11:06 AM
To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Cc: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Good morning,

Do we have an update on this time sensitive matter?

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 **(mobile)**

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Cc: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi

I have met with Rayna Brown, Manager and we will get back to as soon as possible regarding this award.
Thank you.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 8:50 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Cc: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Good morning

I have meeting with Rayna Brown, Manager at 11:30aam regarding next steps after Special Notice was sent to public of intent to sole source:

Clarification from Manager:

- a) After special notice, which closes December 5, 2017 at 10:20am (dated posted 11/29/17) the post is for 5 days per Contracting Officer direction– Next action
- b) I have one capability statement and 2 emails coming against this being a sole source from companies- I did not ask for a capability statement but I believe your office would

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

- c) There is no updated quote (unless it was sent since our last meeting/conversation) that I received from Definers, Corp., **I received a cost breakdown and disclosure of cost in Statement of Work** – I will find out from Manager if this is adequate instead of a quote which was originally the request

After I find out whether I can go ahead with the award I will let you know. If you have questions, please give me a call directly at 202-564-6752. Thank you.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460

From: Grantham, Nancy

Sent: Friday, December 01, 2017 6:53 PM

To: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>

Cc: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Thx

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 1, 2017, at 6:50 PM, Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov> wrote:

Hello All,

I apologize that you still have not received a response. I have not received an update on whether a request was ever submitted and/or received for an updated quote. However, during the last meeting we had, you asked what the next steps were and one of the next steps mentioned was once we received the final SOW from Tricia (which we did) Donna would need to request an updated quote from the vendor based on that revised SOW. In addition, prior to that meeting when we originally met to discuss the SOW because the original quote we received was basically a capability statement and it did not reference any parts of that SOW, it was stated then that the vendor would need to provide an updated or revised quote based on the any changes in the SOW. Hopefully, Donna can shed some light on whether she has already received the revised quote or an expected date on when she will receive the revised quote. Hope this helps. Jody

*Jody Gosnell
Contracting Officer/Team Leader
Headquarters Procurement Operations Division
Office of Acquisition Management
Office: (202) 564-4353
Email: gosnell.jody@epa.gov*

From: Grantham, Nancy

Sent: Friday, December 01, 2017 9:50 AM

To: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>

Cc: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi – we have not heard back on this – so are assuming that donna has in fact received what she needs from the vendor – and that if we do not have other vendors who reply to the notice, we will be able to proceed with awarding the contract.

Please let me know the date the 5 day posting expires.

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 **(mobile)**

From: Gosnell, Jody
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 9:17 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Nancy,

Donna should already have received either an updated quote or a quote that reflects the revised SOW and that would be good for 30 or 60 days.

Donna can you verify if you have received the information from the vendor? Thanks, Jody

Jody Gosnell
Contracting Officer/Team Leader
Headquarters Procurement Operations Division
Office of Acquisition Management
Office: (202) 564-4353
Email: gosnell.jody@epa.gov

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 9:02 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Right .. I thought they needed to submit a formal quote so wanted to make sure they knew they needed to do within the 5 days.

If that is not the case, that is fine.

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 **(mobile)**

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 8:58 AM
To: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Dews,

Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>

Cc: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Jody—

We still want to receive a quote from them to review their work and see that it meets our needs. We can do that, right?

--Tricia

From: Gosnell, Jody

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 8:56 AM

To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>

Cc: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Nancy,

I am curious as to why you would need to send it to them. This is a public notice to make sure there are no other vendors out there that can do it. If we don't get any responses then we will prepare the award and send that to the vendor. Typically we don't send it to them but since it is public record then if you want to you can. Jody

Jody Gosnell

Contracting Officer/Team Leader

Headquarters Procurement Operations Division

Office of Acquisition Management

Office: (202) 564-4353

Email: gossnell.jody@epa.gov

From: Grantham, Nancy

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 8:29 AM

To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>

Cc: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Are we permitted to send to the potential contractor or will OAM do that?

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham

Office of Public Affairs

US Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Dews, Donna

Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 12:14 PM

To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi Nancy

If you go www.fbo.gov and search by Environmental Protection Agency: Opportunities you will see Special Notice titled Media Support/News analysis service

www.fedconnect.net – public opportunities [Media Support/News analysis service](#)

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Thanks much .. can you give us the link to the notice? Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Nancy

Special notice posted today at 10:29am. today.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 11:50 AM
To: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi .. do we have an update on this posting? Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Gosnell, Jody
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 3:28 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi Nancy,

She was working on a priority for Keith Stewart today. I just found out that she had some additional questions for me about what you all submitted but I have been having issues with my email today so I will provide her a response in the morning. Jody

Jody Gosnell
Contracting Officer/Team Leader
Headquarters Procurement Operations Division
Office of Acquisition Management
Office: (202) 564-4353
Email: gosnell.jody@epa.gov

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 7:51 AM
To: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Thanks

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

(mobile)

From: Gosnell, Jody
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 7:50 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi Nancy,

Personal Matters / Ex. 6 and I did not receive a status update from her yesterday. I will follow up with you when she gets in this morning. Jody

Jody Gosnell
Contracting Officer/Team Leader
Headquarters Procurement Operations Division
Office of Acquisition Management
Office: (202) 564-4353
Email: gosnell.jody@epa.gov

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 4:20 PM
To: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi all –

Can we confirm that this was posted today? Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Gosnell, Jody
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi Donna,

Can you please provide us with an update on the status of this PR? Jody

Jody Gosnell
Contracting Officer/Team Leader
Headquarters Procurement Operations Division
Office of Acquisition Management
Office: (202) 564-4353
Email: gosnell.jody@epa.gov

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 10:34 AM
To: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Thanks much

Happy thanksgiving

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 **(mobile)**

From: Gosnell, Jody
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 10:09 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi Nancy,

Personal Matters / Ex. 6 so it should be posted on the 27th. Jody

Jody Gosnell
Contracting Officer/Team Leader
Headquarters Procurement Operations Division
Office of Acquisition Management
Office: (202) 564-4353
Email: gosnell.jody@epa.gov

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 4:50 PM
To: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi – just checking in on this – are we able to post the contract RFP tomorrow?

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 **(mobile)**

From: Gosnell, Jody
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 8:32 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi Nancy,

Once we have the final documents, we will take one final look at them and if everything looks good we will post it. I would like to post it by no later than Wednesday morning. Thanks, Jody

Jody Gosnell

*Contracting Officer/Team Leader
Headquarters Procurement Operations Division
Office of Acquisition Management
Office: (202) 564-4353
Email: gosnell.jody@epa.gov*

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Thanks all –

Checking on status of ACC that Michael is working on.

Once that is done, what is our timeline for putting this on 5 day posting?

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 1:38 PM
To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Donna—

I apologize...I thought you just needed that so I could put it in the IGCE. Please see the attached email, wherein Definers quotes a price.

That said, they'll still be responding with a formal offer, correct? We're interested in being able to evaluate their work in as they respond to what we've put together in the SOW and instructions to offerors.

Thanks!

--Tricia

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 1:28 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC
Importance: High

Hi All

I am still reviewing documents submitted (JOFOC and SOW) but we still need that Quote from the contractor (Definers). If you sent and I missed, I apologize. Again Thanks.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 11:48 AM
To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi all—

Here's the SOW with the instructions, evaluation, and IGCE included at the end. I'm still waiting for a bit of information from Definers to complete the JOFOC, but I'll send it as soon as I have it.

Thanks everyone!

--Tricia

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 11:48 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Michael

Thank you.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

From: Quarles, Michael

Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 11:44 AM

To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>

Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hello,

I will be attaching this document in lieu of FITARA. Thank you.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy

Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 9:31 AM

To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>

Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Thanks .. I think michael mentioned that we don't need the FITARA – rather he will have a statement re: security issues.

Thanks all

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Dews, Donna

Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 9:30 AM

To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>

Subject: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi All

I appreciate everyone coming out so we can continue to progress toward this solicitation. Per our meeting this week I have attached documents to be finalized for the Approved Procurement Plan (APP) (in which Michael would prepare). Please address all issues discussed. Under the additional notes I believe the only item left is getting the FITARA document. Please let Jody or I know if you need further

information or any questions for JOFOC or any of these other attachments. Again
Thanks.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

To: Quarles, Michael[Quarles.Michael@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Mon 12/4/2017 5:27:38 PM
Subject: RE: Link to Procurement Announcement

Thanks

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 12:24 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Link to Procurement Announcement

Hi Nancy,

I attempted to register for the site but the approval person for EPA retired about 6 years ago. Upon doing more research I found that we do not need to register, the information is all there. Registration would be for a vendor who would like to apply for a posting. Please see below.

This is just a notification of a sole source and Donna would receive any inquiries from other vendors. We wouldn't be able to see those as she is the contact person. It looks like they did not put any specific requirements in this Sole Source Notification. Hope this help, if not feel free to call me.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

Opportunity: Media Support/News analysis service

Description

Sole Source Notification for News analysis and brief service focusing on EPA work and other topics of interest to EPA. The intended awardee is Definers Corp, 1500 Wilson Blvd #5, Arlington, VA 22209-2458 - Phone# 571-290-5481

Overview

Reference number: 68HE0H18B0002

Issue date: 11/29/2017

Response due:

Set Aside: N/A

NAICS: 541820-Public Relations Agencies

PSC / FSC: 7830

Agency: EPA

Contracting office:

HPOD

US Environmental Protection Agency

William Jefferson Clinton Building

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.

Mail Code: 3803R

Washington, DC 20460

Place of Performance:

Contact: Donna Dews

Phone:

Fax:

Email: Dews.Donna@epa.gov

Vendors conference:

Location:

Details:

What do I do now?

This is the opportunity summary page. To the left you will see a description and an overview of this opportunity. To view any of the attachments, simply click the attachment name.

Registered Users

To register interest in this opportunity or to electronically respond, you must first sign in. Click the Sign In button.

[Sign In](#)

Non Registered Users

You can view this or any other public opportunity. However, registered users have numerous added benefits. To register to the agency, receive emails concerning updates and amendments, create and manage a response to this opportunity.

Becoming a registered user is fast, free and takes only a few minutes. To get started, click the Register Now button.

[Register Now](#)

[Return to Public Opportunity List](#)

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 10:22 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Link to Procurement Announcement

Michael,

Do you have a password/access to fedbiz so we can fully see what was posted in terms of requirements? Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 (mobile)

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Link to Procurement Announcement

Hi Nancy—

Here's the link to the Definers notice on FedBizOpps. It links to FedConnect as well, but you have to search for it and the site doesn't provide a link to the specific entry, even once you've searched. In any case, it doesn't say much more than the FBO link:

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=479f24101a13dd3ab53e37f06c231a4f&tab=core&_cview=0

Also, I wanted to ask...

In Donna's last email she said:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

The point, for us, is that this isn't adequate, right? In other words, **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5** from Definers?

Tricia Lynn
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
Office: 202.564.2615

To: McCluney, Lance[McCluney.Lance@epa.gov]; Quarles, Michael[Quarles.Michael@epa.gov]; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena[Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wed 12/27/2017 7:15:54 PM
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

10 to 10:30 works – I will send a scheduler – **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: McCluney, Lance
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 1:44 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

How does 10-10:30 sound? **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 1:14 PM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Happy to have a meeting – **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 12:58 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hi Nancy,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Lance has requested we have a call tomorrow for further clarification.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 9:06 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Thanks .. **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5** Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 8:04 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Nancy,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 7:59 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Thanks .. **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Do you know **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 7:56 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hi Nancy,

Yes, a PR is required to add funding to Cision. We are in the base period of the contract which is paid through April 30, 2018. If you are planning to

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Currently, you are listed as the POC but a COR should be added to this contract.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 4:43 PM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hi Michael,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Brown, Rayna
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 4:39 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hello Nancy,

I hope you had a nice weekend. The funds have already been de-obligated and as I recall I was able to confirm this in Compass Data Warehouse. Also, the GAO protest of this action was dismissed by GAO last week after our attorney indicated corrective action would be taken. Please let me know if you have any further questions. Have a nice day!

Sent from my iPhone

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC
(202) 564.6025 Office

On Dec 26, 2017, at 4:24 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks .. please let us know when this is complete – as we would

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Brown, Rayna
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 3:43 PM
To: Julia Cotrone <jcotrone@definerscorp.com>
Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Scott Cotter <scotter@definerscorp.com>
Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hello Julia,

Thank you for your prompt response. I will generate a final bilateral modification to definitize Definers Corp's decision and will get it to you as quickly as possible. This forthcoming modification will serve as the final step and we can close this out. I will be in contact with you soon. Have a nice day.

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC

Sent from my iPhone

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC

On Dec 21, 2017, at 11:01 AM, Julia Cotrone <jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Hi

I had sent the email below yesterday but am having difficulty finding in my email so I just wanted to resend to make sure you have and are aware.

Definers will not seek payment or assert our rights under FAR 52.212-4

Thanks

On Dec 20, 2017, at 11:45 AM, Julia Cotrone <jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Definers will not seek payment or assert our rights under FAR 52.212-4

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 10:45 PM, Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov> wrote:

Hello Julia,

Thank you for your prompt response and returning the signed subject modification. In terms of additional steps necessary to officially end the process will involve whether or not Definers Corp wants to assert its rights under FAR 52.212-4 (I) terms and conditions—see an excerpt of the applicable clause language below. If Definers Corp is seeking, as a matter of its right, the payment of money arising under or relating to this purchase order and termination, then please submit in writing to me as the Contracting Officer with a level of detail consistent with the FAR 52.212-4 and sufficient for a Contracting Officer to determine that the costs were fair, reasonable, allowable, allocable and the facts justify the requested recovery of costs in a termination settlement (e.g. demonstrates that all reasonable steps were taken to minimize the incurrence of costs allocable to the work covered by the order). A final bilateral modification will be issued to definitize this aspect of the termination even if Definers Corp indicates that no costs will be claimed under the order and/or pursuant to the termination.

Please notify me of Definer Corp's intent regarding this matter and the Government will act accordingly. Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Thank you kindly and have a great day!

FAR 52.212-4 Contract Terms and Conditions—Commercial Items.

(I) **Termination for the Government's convenience.** The Government reserves the right to terminate this contract, or any part hereof, for its sole convenience. In the event of such termination, the Contractor shall immediately stop all work hereunder and shall immediately cause any and all of its suppliers and subcontractors to cease work. Subject to the terms of this contract, **the Contractor shall be paid a percentage of the contract price reflecting the percentage of the work performed prior to the notice of termination, plus reasonable charges the Contractor can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Government using its standard record keeping system, have resulted from the termination.** The Contractor shall not be required to comply with the cost accounting standards or contract cost principles for this purpose. This paragraph does not give the Government any right to audit the Contractor's records. **The Contractor shall not be paid for any work performed or costs incurred which reasonably could have been avoided.**

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

From: Julia Cotrone [mailto:jcotrone@definerscorp.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 7:09 PM

To: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>

Cc: jpounder@definerscorp.com; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Scott Cotter <scotter@definerscorp.com>

Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Attached is signed copy of PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ (7 pages). See page 2 for signature as requested.

Please let us know if there are any additional steps we need to take on our end to complete this process. Otherwise please let us know when this process is 100% completed.

Thank you!

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 4:47 PM, Julia Cotrone <jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Received

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 3:45 PM, Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov> wrote:

Contractor: Definers Corp

Purchase Order No.: EP-18-H-000025

Purchase Order Modification No.: P00001

Purchase Order Title: News Analysis Service

Subject: Unilateral Modification No. P00001

Please find attached modification P00001 to purchase order no. EP-18-H-000025 in order to cancel/terminate this order in its entirety via a Termination for the Government's Convenience effective December 19, 2017 and per the Contracting Officer's (CO's) conversation with Julia

Cotrone with Definers Corp this morning. The Contractor shall immediately acknowledge receipt of this modification via email (please **DO NOT** include Group DDC-Customer) upon receipt of this email and correspondence and provide the signed page 2 of 7 to brown.rayna@epa.gov and dews.donna@epa.gov within two (2) business days. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you and have a nice day! ☺

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

--

Julia Cotrone

O: [571.290.5461](tel:571.290.5461) | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

--

Julia Cotrone

O: [571.290.5461](tel:571.290.5461) | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

--

Julia Cotrone

O: [571.290.5461](tel:571.290.5461) | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Quarles, Michael[Quarles.Michael@epa.gov]; McCluney, Lance[McCluney.Lance@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wed 12/20/2017 7:08:51 PM
Subject: RE: contracts to keep running during possible shutdown

Thanks

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: contracts to keep running during possible shutdown

Hi Nancy,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 5:46 PM
To: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: contracts to keep running durin possible shutdown

Cision
Campaign Monitor
Translations International (OGC contract)

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham

**Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
(mobile)**

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Quarles, Michael[Quarles.Michael@epa.gov]
Cc: McCluney, Lance[McCluney.Lance@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wed 12/20/2017 7:00:26 PM
Subject: Re: contracts to keep running during possible shutdown

Thx ng

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 20, 2017, at 1:58 PM, Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov> wrote:

<image002.gif>
Hi Nancy,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 5:46 PM
To: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: contracts to keep running durin possible shutdown

Cision
Campaign Monitor
Translations International (OGC contract)

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

To: Quarles, Michael[Quarles.Michael@epa.gov]
From: Smoot, Nicole
Sent: Tue 7/25/2017 12:33:49 PM
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Ink pen

“Committed to Service and People”

Nicole V. Smoot

*Management Analyst
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
Office of the Administrator
Room: 2432G William Jefferson Clinton North
Mail Code: 1104A
Phone: 202-564-0414
Fax: 202-564-2744
Email: smoot.nicole@epa.gov*

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:33 AM
To: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Ink pen or pin for your shirt?

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Grants and Contracts Coordinator
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Smoot, Nicole
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:32 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Any kind as long as it say

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

“Committed to Service and People”

Nicole V. Smoot

*Management Analyst
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
Office of the Administrator
Room: 2432G William Jefferson Clinton North
Mail Code: 1104A
Phone: 202-564-0414
Fax: 202-564-2744
Email: smoot.nicole@epa.gov*

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:31 AM
To: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

What kind of pen?

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Grants and Contracts Coordinator
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Smoot, Nicole
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:30 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Okay have fun, I never been there can you bring me a pen (SMILE)

“Committed to Service and People”

Nicole V. Smoot

*Management Analyst
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
Office of the Administrator
Room: 2432G William Jefferson Clinton North
Mail Code: 1104A
Phone: 202-564-0414
Fax: 202-564-2744
Email: smoot.nicole@epa.gov*

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:29 AM
To: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Grants and Contracts Coordinator
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Smoot, Nicole
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:27 AM

To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

“Committed to Service and People”

Nicole V. Smoot

Management Analyst

Office of Administrative and Executive Services

Office of the Administrator

Room: 2432G William Jefferson Clinton North

Mail Code: 1104A

Phone: 202-564-0414

Fax: 202-564-2744

Email: smoot.nicole@epa.gov

From: Quarles, Michael

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:26 AM

To: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Working from home today until I fly out.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles

Grants and Contracts Coordinator

Office of Administrative and Executive Services

US Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20460

Mail Code 6202A

(202) 343-9970

From: Smoot, Nicole

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:26 AM

To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

“Committed to Service and People”

Nicole V. Smoot

Management Analyst

Office of Administrative and Executive Services

Office of the Administrator

Room: 2432G William Jefferson Clinton North

Mail Code: 1104A

Phone: 202-564-0414

Fax: 202-564-2744

Email: smoot.nicole@epa.gov

From: Quarles, Michael

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:25 AM
To: Ellison, Mardiko <Ellison.Mardiko@epa.gov>
Cc: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Grants and Contracts Coordinator
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Ellison, Mardiko
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:15 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Sole Source Justification

Good Morning Michael,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 Thank you.

From: Hull, George
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 5:03 PM
To: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>; Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>; Ellison, Mardiko <Ellison.Mardiko@epa.gov>
Cc: Allen, Reginald <Allen.Reginald@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Sole Source Justification

+ Lance, Nicole and Mardiko. - George

From: Hull, George
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 4:55 PM
To: Allen, Reginald <Allen.Reginald@epa.gov>
Subject: Sole Source Justification

Reggie,
Here is a sole source justification for the Definers Media Clips Service contract. Let me know if this works or you need more. –
George

Justification for single source:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Cc: Lance McCluney (McCluney.Lance@epa.gov)[McCluney.Lance@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tue 12/5/2017 5:02:26 PM
Subject: SOW from TechMIS
EPA Media Support - News Analysis Service (68HE0H18B0002).pdf

Hi Nancy,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Please tell me what you think.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Cc: Lance McCluney (McCluney.Lance@epa.gov)[McCluney.Lance@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Mon 12/4/2017 10:01:57 PM
Subject: Contract Issues

Hi Nancy,

I sent Tamika an email regarding Go Big Media. She hasn't responded yet but will let you know as soon as I hear something.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Sorry, I am able to provide you with more concrete information but will try again on both accounts first thing in the morning. Also, I will reach out to OP regarding Politico.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Cc: Lance McCluney (McCluney.Lance@epa.gov)[McCluney.Lance@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Mon 12/4/2017 3:25:08 PM
Subject: RE: Link to Procurement Announcement

Hi Nancy,

I don't but will set up one. Hopefully, it will be up and running this morning.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 10:22 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Link to Procurement Announcement

Michael,

Do you have a password/access to fedbiz so we can fully see what was posted in terms of requirements? Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Link to Procurement Announcement

Hi Nancy—
Here's the link to the Definers notice on FedBizOpps. It links to FedConnect as well, but you have to search for it and the site doesn't provide a link to the specific entry, even once you've searched. In any case, it doesn't say much more than the FBO link:

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=479f24101a13dd3ab53e37f06c231a4f&tab=core&_cview=0

Also, I wanted to ask...

In Donna's last email she said:

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Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

The point, for us, is that this isn't adequate, right? In other words,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

 from Definers?

Tricia Lynn
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
Office: 202.564.2615

To: McCluney, Lance[McCluney.Lance@epa.gov]
Cc: Maher, Karen[Maher.Karen@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tue 6/5/2018 10:58:33 AM
Subject: Re: OAM Awards

Thank you Lance.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 1104A
(202) 343-9970

On Jun 5, 2018, at 6:33 AM, McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov> wrote:

Michael,
Thank you. Let me talk with Karen and possibly Helena about potentially recognizing these individuals.

Thanks,
Lance

Sent from my iPhone
On Jun 4, 2018, at 4:56 PM, Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Lance,

Here is a list of those who have made contributions to our cause from most significant to helpful. Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

To: Reginald Allen (Allen.Reginald@epa.gov)[Allen.Reginald@epa.gov]
Cc: Lance McCluney (McCluney.Lance@epa.gov)[McCluney.Lance@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Fri 1/5/2018 7:48:14 PM
Subject: FW: STATUS UPDATE >> RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

FYI for Definers.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Brown, Rayna
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 2:41 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: STATUS UPDATE >> RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hello Helena and Nancy,

I hope you had a great holiday season! Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Please let us know if you have any further questions. Take care and have a great weekend..stay warm! *

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC
(202) 564.6025 Office

From: Brown, Rayna
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 8:38 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Great morning everyone –

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 Until then, have a wonderful and safe New Year!!! ☺

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 7:23 AM
To: Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>; Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>
Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

This was also reported in ogc weekly notes

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Wooden-Aguilar, Helena
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 5:29 PM
To: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Thank you.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

I also agree with Nancy that we should see the corrective actions.

Best,

Helena

Helena Wooden-Aguilar
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-0792 (office)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

 (mobile)
wooden-aguilar.helena@epa.gov

On Dec 26, 2017, at 5:18 PM, Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov> wrote:

Nancy and Helena,

There were two (2) GAO protests filed by two (2) separate interested parties. The GAO case numbers were B-415800-1 and B-415800-2. Normally the details of the protest such as the allegations filed against EPA and the GAO decisions is made publicly available through GAO online (see links below). Since the Agency, EPA, conceded to a need for corrective action, this may have effected why the full details are not disclosed publicly as per GAO procedures it could take months to make available following a decision of corrective action. Another reason maybe it's subject to a protect order. Otherwise, GAO seeks to issue decisions that provide meaningful and transparent explanations for their rulings. You are very fortunate to have a very proactive, solution-driven Champion in Michael Q. who has already coordinated with me to learn more of the ins and outs of sole sourcing.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Links to the GAO Protest:

<https://www.gao.gov/mobile/docket/B-415800.1>

<https://www.gao.gov/mobile/docket/B-415800.2>

I hope this helps and we will gladly

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Knowing is half the battle. Enjoy the rest of your day!

Sent from my iPhone

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

(202) 564.6025 Office

On Dec 26, 2017, at 4:48 PM, Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Nancy and yes it would be good to see that GAO correspondence.

Helena Wooden-Aguilar

Acting Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of the Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-0792 (office)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

wooden-aguilar.helena@epa.gov

On Dec 26, 2017, at 4:42 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks .. may we get a copy of any correspondence to GAO re: the corrective action? Also, which OGC attorney worked on this? thanks ng

Nancy Grantham

Office of Public Affairs

US Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Brown, Rayna

Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 4:39 PM

To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>;

Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hello Nancy,

I hope you had a nice weekend. The funds have already been de-obligated and as I recall I was able to confirm this in Compass Data Warehouse. Also, the GAO

protest of this action was dismissed by GAO last week after our attorney indicated corrective action would be taken. Please let me know if you have any further questions. Have a nice day!

Sent from my iPhone

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC
(202) 564.6025 Office
On Dec 26, 2017, at 4:24 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
wrote:

Thanks .. please let us know when this is complete – as we would

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Brown, Rayna
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 3:43 PM
To: Julia Cotrone <jcotrone@definerscorp.com>
Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Scott Cotter
<scotter@definerscorp.com>
Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hello Julia,

Thank you for your prompt response. I will generate a final bilateral modification to definitize Definers Corp's decision and will get it to you as quickly as possible. This forthcoming modification will serve as the final step and we can close this out. I will be in contact with you soon. Have a nice day.

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC

Sent from my iPhone

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC
(202) 564.6025 Office
On Dec 21, 2017, at 11:01 AM, Julia Cotrone
<jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Hi

I had sent the email below yesterday but am having difficulty finding in my email so I just wanted to resend to make sure you have and are aware.
Definers will not seek payment or assert our rights under FAR 52.212-4

Thanks
On Dec 20, 2017, at 11:45 AM, Julia Cotrone
<jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Definers will not seek payment or assert our rights under FAR 52.212-4

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 10:45 PM, Brown, Rayna
<brown.rayna@epa.gov> wrote:

Hello Julia,

Thank you for your prompt response and returning the signed subject modification. In terms of additional steps necessary to officially end the process will involve whether or not Definers Corp wants to assert its rights under FAR 52.212-4 (l) terms and conditions—see an excerpt of the applicable clause language below. If Definers Corp is seeking, as a matter of its right, the payment of money arising under or relating to this purchase order and termination, then please submit in writing to me as the Contracting Officer with a level of detail consistent with the FAR 52.212-4 and sufficient for a Contracting Officer to determine that the costs were fair, reasonable, allowable, allocable and the facts justify the requested recovery of costs in a termination settlement (e.g. demonstrates that all reasonable steps were taken to minimize the incurrence of costs allocable to the work covered by the order). A final bilateral modification will be issued to definitize this aspect of the termination even if Definers Corp indicates that no costs will be claimed under the order and/or pursuant to the termination.

Please notify me of Definer Corp's intent regarding this matter and the Government will act accordingly. Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Thank you kindly and have a great day!

FAR 52.212-4 Contract Terms and Conditions—Commercial

Items.

(I) **Termination for the Government's convenience.** The Government reserves the right to terminate this contract, or any part hereof, for its sole convenience. In the event of such termination, the Contractor shall immediately stop all work hereunder and shall immediately cause any and all of its suppliers and subcontractors to cease work. Subject to the terms of this contract, **the Contractor shall be paid a percentage of the contract price reflecting the percentage of the work performed prior to the notice of termination, plus reasonable charges the Contractor can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Government using its standard record keeping system, have resulted from the termination.** The Contractor shall not be required to comply with the cost accounting standards or contract cost principles for this purpose. This paragraph does not give the Government any right to audit the Contractor's records. **The Contractor shall not be paid for any work performed or costs incurred which reasonably could have been avoided.**

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

From: Julia Cotrone [mailto:jcotrone@definerscorp.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 7:09 PM

To: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>

Cc: jpounder@definerscorp.com; Dews, Donna

<Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Scott Cotter

<scotter@definerscorp.com>

Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Attached is signed copy of PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ (7 pages). See page 2 for signature as requested.

Please let us know if there are any additional steps we need to take on our end to complete this process. Otherwise please let us know when this process is 100% completed.

Thank you!

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 4:47 PM, Julia Cotrone
<jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Received

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 3:45 PM, Brown, Rayna
<brown.rayna@epa.gov> wrote:

Contractor: Definers Corp

Purchase Order No.: EP-18-H-000025

Purchase Order Modification No.: P00001

Purchase Order Title: News Analysis Service

Subject: Unilateral Modification No. P00001

Please find attached modification P00001 to purchase order no. EP-18-H-000025 in order to cancel/terminate this order in its entirety via a Termination for the Government's Convenience effective December 19, 2017 and per the Contracting Officer's (CO's) conversation with Julia Cotrone with Definers Corp this morning. The Contractor shall immediately acknowledge receipt of this modification via email (please **DO NOT** include Group DDC-Customer) upon receipt of this email and correspondence and provide the signed page 2 of 7 to brown.rayna@epa.gov and dews.donna@epa.gov within two (2) business days. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you and have a nice day! ☺

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

--

Julia Cotrone

O: 571.290.5461 | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

--

Julia Cotrone

O: 571.290.5461 | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

--

Julia Cotrone

O: 571.290.5461 | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena[Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov]
Cc: McCluney, Lance[McCluney.Lance@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Wed 12/27/2017 6:27:43 PM
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Okay thanks.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 1:14 PM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Happy to have a meeting –

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 12:58 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hi Nancy,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Lance has requested we have a call tomorrow for further clarification.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 9:06 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Thanks .. **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5** Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
(mobile)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 8:04 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Nancy,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 7:59 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Thanks .. **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Do you know **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 (mobile)

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 7:56 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Cc: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hi Nancy,

Yes, a PR is required to add funding to Cision. We are in the base period of the contract which is paid through April 30, 2018. If you are planning to

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Currently, you are listed as the POC but a COR should be added to this contract.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 4:43 PM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hi Michael,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Brown, Rayna
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 4:39 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hello Nancy,

I hope you had a nice weekend. The funds have already been de-obligated and as I recall I was able to confirm this in Compass Data Warehouse. Also, the GAO protest of this action was dismissed by GAO last week after our attorney indicated corrective action would be taken. Please let me know if you have any further questions. Have a nice day!

Sent from my iPhone

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC
(202) 564.6025 Office

On Dec 26, 2017, at 4:24 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks ... please let us know when this is complete – as we would

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
(mobile)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

From: Brown, Rayna

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 3:43 PM

To: Julia Cotrone <jcotrone@definerscorp.com>

Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Scott Cotter <scotter@definerscorp.com>

Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hello Julia,

Thank you for your prompt response. I will generate a final bilateral modification to definitize Definers Corp's decision and will get it to you as quickly as possible. This forthcoming modification will serve as the final step and we can close this out. I will be in contact with you soon. Have a nice day.

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC

Sent from my iPhone

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC
(202) 564.6025 Office

On Dec 21, 2017, at 11:01 AM, Julia Cotrone <jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Hi

I had sent the email below yesterday but am having difficulty finding in my email so I just wanted to resend to make sure you have and are aware.

Definers will not seek payment or assert our rights under FAR 52.212-4

Thanks

On Dec 20, 2017, at 11:45 AM, Julia Cotrone <jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Definers will not seek payment or assert our rights under FAR 52.212-4

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 10:45 PM, Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov> wrote:

Hello Julia,

Thank you for your prompt response and returning the signed subject modification. In terms of additional steps necessary to officially end the process will involve whether or not Definers Corp wants to assert its rights under FAR 52.212-4 (I) terms and conditions—see an excerpt of the applicable clause language below. If Definers Corp is seeking, as a matter of its right, the payment of money arising under or relating to this purchase order and termination, then please submit in writing to me as the Contracting Officer with a level of detail consistent with the FAR 52.212-4 and sufficient for a Contracting Officer to determine that the costs were fair, reasonable, allowable, allocable and the facts justify the requested recovery of costs in a termination settlement (e.g. demonstrates that all reasonable steps were taken to minimize the incurrence of costs allocable to the work covered by the order). A final bilateral modification will be issued to definitize this aspect of the termination even if Definers Corp indicates that no costs will be claimed under the order and/or pursuant to the termination.

Please notify me of Definer Corp's intent regarding this matter and the Government will act accordingly. Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Thank you kindly and have a great day!

FAR 52.212-4 Contract Terms and Conditions—Commercial Items.

(I) **Termination for the Government's convenience.** The Government reserves the right to terminate this contract, or any part hereof, for its sole convenience. In the event of such termination, the Contractor shall immediately stop all work hereunder and shall immediately cause any and all of its suppliers and subcontractors to cease work. Subject to the terms of this contract, **the Contractor shall be paid a percentage of the contract price reflecting the percentage of the work performed prior to the notice of termination, plus reasonable charges the Contractor can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Government using its standard record keeping system, have resulted from the termination.** The Contractor shall not be required to comply with the cost accounting standards or contract cost principles for this purpose. This paragraph does not give the Government any right to audit the Contractor's records. **The Contractor shall not be paid for any work performed or costs incurred which reasonably could have been avoided.**

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

From: Julia Cotrone [mailto:jcotrone@definerscorp.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 7:09 PM
To: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>
Cc: jpounder@definerscorp.com; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Scott Cotter <scotter@definerscorp.com>
Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Attached is signed copy of PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ (7 pages). See page 2 for signature as requested.

Please let us know if there are any additional steps we need to take on our end to complete this process. Otherwise please let us know when this process is 100% completed.

Thank you!

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 4:47 PM, Julia Cotrone <jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Received

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 3:45 PM, Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov> wrote:

Contractor: Definers Corp

Purchase Order No.: EP-18-H-000025

Purchase Order Modification No.: P00001

Purchase Order Title: News Analysis Service

Subject: Unilateral Modification No. P00001

Please find attached modification P00001 to purchase order no. EP-18-H-000025 in order to cancel/terminate this order in its entirety via a Termination for the Government's Convenience effective December 19, 2017 and per the Contracting Officer's (CO's) conversation with Julia Cotrone with Definers Corp this morning. The Contractor shall immediately acknowledge receipt of this modification via email (please **DO NOT** include Group DDC-Customer) upon receipt of this email and correspondence and provide the signed page 2 of 7 to brown.rayna@epa.gov and dews.donna@epa.gov within two (2) business days. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you and have a nice day! ☺

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

--

Julia Cotrone

O: 571.290.5461 | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

--

Julia Cotrone

O: 571.290.5461 | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

--

Julia Cotrone

O: 571.290.5461 | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Brown, Rayna[brown.rayna@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Mon 5/7/2018 11:47:16 AM
Subject: RE: PRISM Workflow Alert regarding Purchase Order EP-18-H-000025 (P00002)

Thank Rayna, I always love your emails. They are bright, heady, and full of good spirit. I had hoped to see at some of the training events you were hosting for your new staff. Did I miss them?

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

-----Original Message-----

From: Brown, Rayna
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 7:43 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PRISM Workflow Alert regarding Purchase Order EP-18-H-000025 (P00002)

Hey there Michael,

All is G-R-E-A-T and I hope the same with you!

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Take care and hope to run into you soon! ☐*

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) OAM/HPOD/Pre-Award Solutions Team
(202) 564.6025 Office

-----Original Message-----

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 7:35 AM
To: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: PRISM Workflow Alert regarding Purchase Order EP-18-H-000025 (P00002)

Good Morning Rayna,

Hope all is well with you today. Just wanted to share the email below with you.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

-----Original Message-----

From: EAS.System@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:EAS.System@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2018 6:40 PM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: PRISM Workflow Alert regarding Purchase Order EP-18-H-000025 (P00002)

Purchase Order EP-18-H-000025 (P00002) has been in Rayna Brown's inbox for 79 working days awaiting their review.

To: Brown, Rayna[brown.rayna@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tue 12/26/2017 10:34:18 PM
Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Thanks Rayna.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 1104A
(202) 343-9970

On Dec 26, 2017, at 5:18 PM, Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov> wrote:

Nancy and Helena,

There were two (2) GAO protests filed by two (2) separate interested parties. The GAO case numbers were B-415800-1 and B-415800-2. Normally the details of the protest such as the allegations filed against EPA and the GAO decisions is made publicly available through GAO online (see links below). Since the Agency, EPA, conceded to a need for corrective action, this may have effected why the full details are not disclosed publicly as per GAO procedures it could take months to make available following a decision of corrective action. Another reason maybe it's subject to a protect order. Otherwise, GAO seeks to issue decisions that provide meaningful and transparent explanations for their rulings. You are very fortunate to have a very proactive, solution-driven Champion in Michael Q. who has already coordinated with me to learn more of the ins and outs of sole sourcing.

Either way, (1) I am planning to **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Links to the GAO Protest:

<https://www.gao.gov/mobile/docket/B-415800.1>

<https://www.gao.gov/mobile/docket/B-415800.2>

I hope this helps and we will gladly **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 Knowing is half the battle. Enjoy the rest of your day!

Sent from my iPhone

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

(202) 564.6025 Office

On Dec 26, 2017, at 4:48 PM, Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Nancy and yes it would be good to see that GAO correspondence.

Helena Wooden-Aguilar
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-0792 (office)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

 (mobile)
wooden-aguilar.helena@epa.gov

On Dec 26, 2017, at 4:42 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks .. may we get a copy of any correspondence to GAO re: the corrective action? Also, which OGC attorney worked on this? thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Brown, Rayna
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 4:39 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>;
Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hello Nancy,

I hope you had a nice weekend. The funds have already been de-obligated and as I recall I was able to confirm this in Compass Data Warehouse. Also, the GAO protest of this action was dismissed by GAO last week after our attorney indicated corrective action would be taken. Please let me know if you have any further questions. Have a nice day!

Sent from my iPhone

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC
(202) 564.6025 Office
On Dec 26, 2017, at 4:24 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
wrote:

Thanks .. please let us know when this is complete – as we would

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Brown, Rayna
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 3:43 PM
To: Julia Cotrone <jcotrone@definerscorp.com>
Cc: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Scott Cotter
<scotter@definerscorp.com>
Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Hello Julia,

Thank you for your prompt response. I will generate a final bilateral modification to definitize Definers Corp's decision and will get it to you as quickly as possible. This forthcoming modification will serve as the final step and we can close this out. I will be in contact with you soon. Have a nice day.

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC

Sent from my iPhone

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC
(202) 564.6025 Office
On Dec 21, 2017, at 11:01 AM, Julia Cotrone
<jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Hi

I had sent the email below yesterday but am having difficulty finding in my email so I just wanted to resend to make sure you have and are aware.
Definers will not seek payment or assert our rights under FAR 52.212-4

Thanks
On Dec 20, 2017, at 11:45 AM, Julia Cotrone

<jcotrone@definercorp.com> wrote:

Definers will not seek payment or assert our rights under FAR 52.212-4

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 10:45 PM, Brown, Rayna
<brown.rayna@epa.gov> wrote:

Hello Julia,

Thank you for your prompt response and returning the signed subject modification. In terms of additional steps necessary to officially end the process will involve whether or not Definers Corp wants to assert its rights under FAR 52.212-4 (l) terms and conditions—see an excerpt of the applicable clause language below. If Definers Corp is seeking, as a matter of its right, the payment of money arising under or relating to this purchase order and termination, then please submit in writing to me as the Contracting Officer with a level of detail consistent with the FAR 52.212-4 and sufficient for a Contracting Officer to determine that the costs were fair, reasonable, allowable, allocable and the facts justify the requested recovery of costs in a termination settlement (e.g. demonstrates that all reasonable steps were taken to minimize the incurrence of costs allocable to the work covered by the order). A final bilateral modification will be issued to definitize this aspect of the termination even if Definers Corp indicates that no costs will be claimed under the order and/or pursuant to the termination.

Please notify me of Definer Corp's intent regarding this matter and the Government will act accordingly. Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Thank you kindly and have a great day!

FAR 52.212-4 Contract Terms and Conditions—Commercial Items.

(l) **Termination for the Government's convenience.** The Government reserves the right to terminate this contract, or any part hereof, for its sole convenience. In the event of such termination, the Contractor shall immediately stop all work hereunder and shall immediately cause any and all of its suppliers and subcontractors to cease work. Subject to the terms of this contract, **the Contractor shall be paid a percentage of the contract price reflecting the percentage of the work performed prior to the notice of termination, plus reasonable charges the Contractor can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Government using its standard record keeping system, have resulted from the termination.** The Contractor shall not be required to comply with the cost

accounting standards or contract cost principles for this purpose. This paragraph does not give the Government any right to audit the Contractor's records. **The Contractor shall not be paid for any work performed or costs incurred which reasonably could have been avoided.**

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

From: Julia Cotrone [mailto:jcotrone@definerscorp.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 7:09 PM

To: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>

Cc: jpounder@definerscorp.com; Dews, Donna

<Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Scott Cotter

<scotter@definerscorp.com>

Subject: Re: PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ [URGENT]

Attached is signed copy of PO_EP18H000025_1_HQ (7 pages). See page 2 for signature as requested.

Please let us know if there are any additional steps we need to take on our end to complete this process. Otherwise please let us know when this process is 100% completed.

Thank you!

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 4:47 PM, Julia Cotrone
<jcotrone@definerscorp.com> wrote:

Received

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 3:45 PM, Brown, Rayna
<brown.rayna@epa.gov> wrote:

Contractor: Definers Corp

Purchase Order No.: EP-18-H-000025

Purchase Order Modification No.: P00001

Purchase Order Title: News Analysis Service

Subject: Unilateral Modification No. P00001

Please find attached modification P00001 to purchase order no. EP-18-H-000025 in order to cancel/terminate this order in its entirety via a Termination for the Government's Convenience effective December 19, 2017 and per the Contracting Officer's (CO's) conversation with Julia Cotrone with Definers Corp this morning. The Contractor shall immediately acknowledge receipt of this modification via email (please **DO NOT** include Group DDC-Customer) upon receipt of this email and correspondence and provide the signed page 2 of 7 to brown.rayna@epa.gov and dews.donna@epa.gov within two (2) business days. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you and have a nice day! ☺

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager, Contracting Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

--

Julia Cotrone

O: [571.290.5461](tel:571.290.5461) | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

--

Julia Cotrone

O: [571.290.5461](tel:571.290.5461) | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

--

Julia Cotrone

O: 571.290.5461 | C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Smoot, Nicole[Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tue 7/25/2017 12:33:00 PM
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Ink pen or pin for your shirt?

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Grants and Contracts Coordinator
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Smoot, Nicole
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:32 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Any kind as long as it say Personal Matters / Ex. 6

“Committed to Service and People”
Nicole V. Smoot
Management Analyst
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
Office of the Administrator
Room: 2432G William Jefferson Clinton North
Mail Code: 1104A
Phone: 202-564-0414
Fax: 202-564-2744
Email: smoot.nicole@epa.gov

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:31 AM
To: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

What kind of pen?

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Grants and Contracts Coordinator
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Smoot, Nicole
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:30 AM

To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Okay have fun, I never been there can you bring me a pen (SMILE)

“Committed to Service and People”

Nicole V. Smoot

Management Analyst

Office of Administrative and Executive Services

Office of the Administrator

Room: 2432G William Jefferson Clinton North

Mail Code: 1104A

Phone: 202-564-0414

Fax: 202-564-2744

Email: smoot.nicole@epa.gov

From: Quarles, Michael

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:29 AM

To: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles

Grants and Contracts Coordinator

Office of Administrative and Executive Services

US Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20460

Mail Code 6202A

(202) 343-9970

From: Smoot, Nicole

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:27 AM

To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

“Committed to Service and People”

Nicole V. Smoot

Management Analyst

Office of Administrative and Executive Services

Office of the Administrator

Room: 2432G William Jefferson Clinton North

Mail Code: 1104A

Phone: 202-564-0414

Fax: 202-564-2744

Email: smoot.nicole@epa.gov

From: Quarles, Michael

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Working from home today until I fly out.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Grants and Contracts Coordinator
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Smoot, Nicole
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

“Committed to Service and People”

Nicole V. Smoot

*Management Analyst
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
Office of the Administrator
Room: 2432G William Jefferson Clinton North
Mail Code: 1104A
Phone: 202-564-0414
Fax: 202-564-2744
Email: smoot.nicole@epa.gov*

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:25 AM
To: Ellison, Mardiko <Ellison.Mardiko@epa.gov>
Cc: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sole Source Justification

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Grants and Contracts Coordinator
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Ellison, Mardiko
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:15 AM

To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>

Cc: Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Sole Source Justification

Good Morning Michael,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 Thank you.

From: Hull, George

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 5:03 PM

To: McCluney, Lance <McCluney.Lance@epa.gov>; Smoot, Nicole <Smoot.Nicole@epa.gov>; Ellison, Mardiko <Ellison.Mardiko@epa.gov>

Cc: Allen, Reginald <Allen.Reginald@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Sole Source Justification

+ Lance, Nicole and Mardiko. - George

From: Hull, George

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 4:55 PM

To: Allen, Reginald <Allen.Reginald@epa.gov>

Subject: Sole Source Justification

Reggie,

Here is a sole source justification for the Definers Media Clips Service contract. Let me know if this works or you need more. – George

Justification for single source:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

To: Scott, Elaine[Scott.Elaïne@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tue 1/9/2018 4:21:37 PM
Subject: Fwd: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC
[SOW.Final.11.08.17.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Eval in SOW

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
[1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW](#)
[Washington, DC 20460](#)
Mail Code 1104A
[\(202\) 343-9970](#)
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lynn, Tricia" <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Date: November 13, 2017 at 11:47:59 AM EST
To: "Dews, Donna" <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>, "Quarles, Michael" <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>, "Gosnell, Jody" <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Cc: "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi all—

Here's the SOW with the instructions, evaluation, and IGCE included at the end. I'm still waiting for a bit of information from Definers to complete the JOFOC, but I'll send it as soon as I have it.

Thanks everyone!

--Tricia

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 11:48 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Michael

Thank you.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center

Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 11:44 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hello,

I will be attaching this document in lieu of FITARA. Thank you.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Thanks .. I think michael mentioned that we don't need the FITARA – rather he will have a statement re: security issues.

Thanks all

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 9:30 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Subject: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi All

I appreciate everyone coming out so we can continue to progress toward this solicitation. Per our meeting this week I have attached documents to be finalized for the Approved Procurement Plan (APP) (in which Michael would prepare). Please address all issues discussed. Under the additional notes I believe the only item left is getting the FITARA document. Please let Jody or I know if you need further information or any questions for JOFOC or any of these other attachments. Again Thanks.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

To: Scott, Elaine[Scott.Elaïne@epa.gov]
From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Tue 1/9/2018 4:12:11 PM
Subject: Fwd: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC
Attachment
ATT00001.htm

Quote

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 1104A
(202) 343-9970
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lynn, Tricia" <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Date: November 16, 2017 at 1:37:52 PM EST
To: "Dews, Donna" <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>, "Quarles, Michael" <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>, "Gosnell, Jody" <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Cc: "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Donna—

I apologize...I thought you just needed that so I could put it in the IGCE. Please see the attached email, wherein Definers quotes a price.

That said, they'll still be responding with a formal offer, correct? We're interested in being able to evaluate their work in as they respond to what we've put together in the SOW and instructions to offerors.

Thanks!

--Tricia

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 1:28 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC
Importance: High

Hi All

I am still reviewing documents submitted (JOFOC and SOW) but we still need that Quote from the contractor (Definers). If you sent and I missed, I apologize. Again Thanks.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist

US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 11:48 AM
To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi all—

Here's the SOW with the instructions, evaluation, and IGCE included at the end. I'm still waiting for a bit of information from Definers to complete the JOFOC, but I'll send it as soon as I have it.

Thanks everyone!

--Tricia

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 11:48 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Michael

Thank you.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 11:44 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hello,

I will be attaching this document in lieu of FITARA. Thank you.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Thanks .. I think michael mentioned that we don't need the FITARA – rather he will have a statement re: security issues.

Thanks all

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 9:30 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>
Subject: Updated Docs for PR-OA-17-00132 NEWS SVC

Hi All

I appreciate everyone coming out so we can continue to progress toward this solicitation. Per our meeting this week I have attached documents to be finalized for the Approved Procurement Plan (APP) (in which Michael would prepare). Please address all issues discussed. Under the additional notes I believe the only item left is getting the FITARA document. Please let Jody or I know if you need further information or any questions for JOFOC or any of these other attachments. Again Thanks.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist

US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

To: Vaughn, Celia[Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov]
Cc: Stewart, Keith[Stewart.Keith@epa.gov]; Plater, Lottie[Plater.Lottie@epa.gov]
From: Scott, Elaine
Sent: Tue 2/6/2018 3:39:30 PM
Subject: RE: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf
final SOW for Definers EP18H000025.pdf

Celia,

As I mentioned in a previous email, I was not a part of the initial notice that was sent out.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Elaine

Elaine Scott
Associate Division Director, SRRPOD

From: Vaughn, Celia
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 9:12 PM
To: Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaine@epa.gov>
Cc: Stewart, Keith <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf

Hi Elaine,
See Lottie’s response below. She wants you to verify for the Agency.

Celia M. Vaughn

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Plater, Lottie" <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov>
Date: February 5, 2018 at 5:24:21 PM EST
To: "Vaughn, Celia" <Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov>, "Brown, Rayna" <brown.rayna@epa.gov>, "Dews, Donna" <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>, "Gosnell, Jody" <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>, "Wilson, Jessica" <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>
Cc: "Stewart, Keith" <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf

Celia,

To the best of my knowledge I believe

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

 You can confirm with Elaine Scott in the morning when she come in the office. Thanks!

Lottie Plater
Associate Director,
OARM/OAM/HPOD

Environmental Protection Agency

Email: plater.lottie@epa.gov

W: 202-564-0163

C: 202-568-9436

"Blowing out someone else's candle doesn't make yours shine any brighter"

From: Vaughn, Celia

Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 4:44 PM

To: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Plater, Lottie <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>

Cc: Stewart, Keith <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>

Subject: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf

Hello,

Included in the document set you sent me about Definers Public Affairs was the attached Statement of Work.

At Congressional Affairs' request, can you

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 but please confirm.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

To: Wilson, Jessica[Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov]
Cc: Stewart, Keith[Stewart.Keith@epa.gov]; Plater, Lottie[Plater.Lottie@epa.gov]
From: Scott, Elaine
Sent: Thur 12/7/2017 8:12:31 PM
Subject: FW: First Draft of SOW and Memo
[SOW.Final 12-5-17.docx](#)
[SSJ Memo 12-7-17.docx](#)

Hi Jessica,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Thursday, December 07, 2017 2:48 PM
To: Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaine@epa.gov>
Cc: Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: First Draft of SOW and Memo

Elaine

See below.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Quarles, Michael
Sent: Thursday, December 07, 2017 2:43 PM
To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>
Cc: Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>
Subject: First Draft of SOW and Memo

Hi Donna,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

 Thank you.

Have a great day,

Michael G. Quarles
Acquisitions and Assistance Manager
Office of Administrative and Executive Services
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 6202A
(202) 343-9970

To: Scott, Elaine[Scott.Elaïne@epa.gov]
From: Marusak, Kirk
Sent: Tue 2/6/2018 2:51:57 PM
Subject: RE: Definer's File - PO#EP18-H-000025

Hi, Elaine,

I have the file folder in my possession. Of course, you can come over to my cubicle and review a document inside the file for 30 minutes. Kush Khatri and I have a number of FOIA requests

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

We will need the file back as soon as you are done. I am working to

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

I am located in PTOD, and my cubicle is located in the next row over from Rayna Brown's office and the attorney offices that are against the back wall. My cubicle number is 61268. I sit directly across from Mildred Jackson.

Kirk R. Marusak
Government Information Specialist
Office of Acquisition Management
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (202) 564-4493
Fax: (202) 564-2553
Marusak.Kirk@epa.gov

From: Scott, Elaine
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 9:40 AM
To: Marusak, Kirk <Marusak.Kirk@epa.gov>
Subject: Definer's File - PO#EP18-H-000025

Good Morning Kirk,

By any chance, do you still have the Definer's File with you to respond to a FOIA? If so, can I borrow it for about 30 minutes. I need to review a document inside the file. I can come get it just let me know where you sit.

Thank you,

Elaine

Elaine Scott,
Associate Division Director
OARM/OAM/SRRPOD

To: Vaughn, Celia[Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov]
Cc: Stewart, Keith[Stewart.Keith@epa.gov]; Plater, Lottie[Plater.Lottie@epa.gov]
From: Scott, Elaine
Sent: Tue 2/6/2018 2:08:10 PM
Subject: RE: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf

I was not in the office on Monday. I also was not involved when the initial Notice of Intent went out. However, I will check with Jody Gosnell and Donna Dews and get back to everyone.

Elaine

From: Vaughn, Celia
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 9:12 PM
To: Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaïne@epa.gov>
Cc: Stewart, Keith <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf

Hi Elaine,
See Lottie's response below. She wants you to verify for the Agency.

Celia M. Vaughn

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Plater, Lottie" <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov>
Date: February 5, 2018 at 5:24:21 PM EST
To: "Vaughn, Celia" <Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov>, "Brown, Rayna" <brown.rayna@epa.gov>, "Dews, Donna" <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>, "Gosnell, Jody" <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>, "Wilson, Jessica" <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>
Cc: "Stewart, Keith" <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf

Celia,

To the best of my knowledge I believe Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 You can confirm with Elaine Scott in the morning when she come in the office. Thanks!

Lottie Plater
Associate Director,
OARM/OAM/HPOD
Environmental Protection Agency
Email: plater.lottie@epa.gov
W: 202-564-0163
C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

"Blowing out someone else's candle doesn't make yours shine any brighter"

From: Vaughn, Celia
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 4:44 PM
To: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Plater, Lottie <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>
Cc: Stewart, Keith <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>
Subject: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf

Hello,
Included in the document set you sent me about Definers Public Affairs was the attached Statement of Work. At Congressional Affairs' request, can you Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

but please confirm.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

To: Scott, Elaine[Scott.Elaaine@epa.gov]
From: Vaughn, Celia
Sent: Mon 2/5/2018 9:47:08 PM
Subject: Fwd: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf
Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf
ATT00001.htm

Celia M. Vaughn
Chief of Staff, USEPA Headquarters, Office of Acquisition Management
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 3805R (202) 564-1047

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Vaughn, Celia" <Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov>
Date: February 5, 2018 at 4:44:28 PM EST
To: "Brown, Rayna" <brown.rayna@epa.gov>, "Dews, Donna" <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>, "Gosnell, Jody" <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>, "Plater, Lottie" <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov>, "Wilson, Jessica" <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>
Cc: "Stewart, Keith" <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>
Subject: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf

Hello,
Included in the document set you sent me about Definers Public Affairs was the attached Statement of Work.
At Congressional Affairs' request,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

 but please confirm.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

To: Scott, Elaine[Scott.Elaaine@epa.gov]
From: Brown, Rayna
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:20:39 PM
Subject: Re: FYI >> CO just informed Definers Corp. of intent to issue a modification to cancel the award EP-18-H-000025

Thanks Elaine! I got it from Jessica. Thanks again for standing in the gap and sorry it went down like it did. Definitely a teachable opportunity! Take care

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown

Service Center Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

OAM/HPOD/PCSC

(202) 564.6025 Office

On Dec 19, 2017, at 12:10 PM, Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaaine@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks for the update Rayna. Were you able to get the email we were talking about? I can forward you what I have if you'd like.

Elaine

From: Brown, Rayna

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 12:07 PM

To: Stewart, Keith <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>

Cc: McLean, Sarsah <McLean.Sarsah@epa.gov>; Madison, Tommie <Madison.Tommie@epa.gov>; Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaaine@epa.gov>

Subject: FYI >> CO just informed Definers Corp. of intent to issue a modification to cancel the award EP-18-H-000025

Hello all,

Please be advised, I have just spoke with Julia Cotrone with Definers Corp about an hour ago to provide a courtesy call that I will be issuing a unilateral modification to terminate for convenience (a full termination) the subject order pursuant to the GAO protests that was filed and stipulates the award must be cancelled. As such, all funds on the order will be fully de-obligated. Under a termination of this nature, pursuant to FAR 52.212-4 (see below) the contractor may be entitled to certain incurred expenses prior to the termination or in association with the termination that could not otherwise been mitigated. I will coordinate with Michael accordingly for funding if needed. I have asked that Definers sign and return the modification just as a means of acknowledgement and her company is prepared/agrees to do so upon receipt today.

If you receive any communication from this vendor or any other interested party, please direct them to myself as the Contracting Officer of record from this point forward. Please call us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you and have a nice day! ☺

(I) Termination for the Government's convenience. The Government reserves the right to terminate this contract, or any part hereof, for its sole convenience. In the event of such termination, the Contractor shall immediately stop all work hereunder and shall immediately cause any and all of its suppliers and subcontractors to cease work. Subject to the terms of this contract, the Contractor shall be paid a percentage of the contract price reflecting the percentage of the work performed prior to the notice of termination, plus reasonable charges the Contractor can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Government using its standard record keeping system, have resulted from the termination. The Contractor shall not be required to comply with the cost accounting standards or contract cost principles for this purpose. This paragraph does not give the Government any right to audit the Contractor's records. The Contractor shall not be paid for any work performed or costs incurred which reasonably could have been avoided.

Kind regards,

Rayna Brown
Service Center Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
OAM/HPOD/PCSC
(202) 564.6025 Office

To: Scott, Elaine[Scott.Elaïne@epa.gov]
Cc: Stewart, Keith[Stewart.Keith@epa.gov]
From: Plater, Lottie
Sent: Mon 2/5/2018 10:30:29 PM
Subject: FW: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf
[Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Elaine,

Can you please send Celia an email to verify that the SOW is in final state and not a draft? I believe this request is urgent. I did respond and told her that to the best of my knowledge that the SOW was final and not a draft. Thanks!

Lottie Plater
Associate Director,
OARM/OAM/HPOD
Environmental Protection Agency
Email: plater.lottie@epa.gov
W: 202-564-0163

C. Personal Phone / Ex. 6

“Blowing out someone else’s candle doesn’t make yours shine any brighter”

From: Vaughn, Celia
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 4:44 PM
To: Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Plater, Lottie <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>
Cc: Stewart, Keith <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>
Subject: URGENT ACTION REQUESTED Re: Definers Statement of Work-1.pdf

Hello,
Included in the document set you sent me about Definers Public Affairs was the attached Statement of Work. At Congressional Affairs’ request, can you confirm that this was the final version? It looks final & OPA believes it is the final version, but please confirm. If it’s a draft version the Agency would withhold it as internal/deliberative.

From: Brown, Rayna
Location: DCRoomRRB61233California25pp/DC-Ronald-Reagan-OAM
Importance: Normal
Subject: IMMEDIATE ACTION >> Congressional - Oversight request on Definers Inc. contract
Start Time: Tue 1/9/2018 3:30:00 PM
End Time: Tue 1/9/2018 4:30:00 PM
Required Attendees: Scott, Elaine

REQUEST FOR YOU IMMEDIATE ACTION Re: Congressional - Oversight request on Definers Inc. contract

Hello all—

Please read the attached email as it will be the subject of this meeting and be prepared to provide all input and dialogue necessary to respond to this inquiry. When arriving at this meeting, please be prepared as follows:

- Read the email and the requested documents and
- Bring your laptop and any other pertinent materials not in the file

This is a top priority and is due today, January 9, 2018. We are also jointly responding to multiple FOIA requests for this same requirement. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

To: Stewart, Keith[Stewart.Keith@epa.gov]; Plater, Lottie[Plater.Lottie@epa.gov]
Cc: Brown, Rayna[brown.rayna@epa.gov]
From: Vaughn, Celia
Sent: Tue 1/9/2018 1:41:25 AM
Subject: REQUEST FOR YOU IMMEDIATE ACTION Re: Congressional - Oversight request on Definers Inc. contract
[DeFazio Definers 1-3-18.pdf](#)
[Whitehouse News Analysis 12-19-17.pdf](#)
[Whitehouse News Analysis 1-5-18.docx](#)
[Pallone Definers 1-5-18.pdf](#)

Hello Keith,

I believe the procurement action in question (i.e. award to **Definers Inc.** to provide news analysis services to OPA) may have been processed for the Office of Administration by HPOD.

I copied Rayna Brown in anticipation that this may have been under her service center.

In addition to reviewing the attached proposed response to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (i.e. attached MS word document), please have the cognizant contracting officer forward to me ASAP the following items:

- A copy of the initial public solicitation or notice related to the “news analysis and brief service” work put out for bid
- A copy of all formal contract responses or other indications of interest to this solicitation or notice from prospective companies seeking to bid on this work
- A copy of the final contract with Definers
- A copy of the contract between EPA and any company that provided similar media monitoring services to the agency *immediately prior* to the awarding of the contract with Definers (press reports indicate that this contract was with a company called Bulletin Intelligence, LLC)
- Copies of [any other] documents related to the procurement of services with Definers as well as the contract EPA concluded with Definers for these services

Thank you in advance for your immediate response.

Celia M. Vaughn

Chief of Staff, USEPA Headquarters, Office of Acquisition Management
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Washington, DC 20460
Mail Code 3805R (202) 564-1047

From: Cooper, Marian
Sent: Monday, January 08, 2018 10:28 AM
To: Patrick, Kimberly <Patrick.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Legare, Pamela <Legare.Pamela@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Celia <Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov>
Cc: Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>; Showman, John <Showman.John@epa.gov>; Bell, Matthew <Bell.Matthew@epa.gov>; Aarons, Kyle <Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov>; Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>; Gantt, Melissa <Gantt.Melissa@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Oversight request on Definers Inc. contract

Kimberly, Pam and Celia,

Please see the request below. Kyle from Congressional Affairs, is coordinating this response. Can you please comments on the draft response and the documents requested? Please copy Matt and me on your response.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Marian

Marian Pechmann Cooper
Chief of Staff
Office of Administration and Resources Management

William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building-NORTH (3330)
Washington, DC 20460
office number -- 202 564-0620
office fax -- 202 564-0233



From: Aarons, Kyle
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 10:45 AM
To: Cooper, Marian <Cooper.Marian@epa.gov>; Bell, Matthew <Bell.Matthew@epa.gov>
Cc: Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>
Subject: Oversight request on Definers Inc. contract

Hi Marian and Matt – We are working to respond to a couple oversight requests about a contract (now canceled) with Definers Inc. to provide news analysis services to OPA. We worked with OPA to draft the attached response, but will need some help from OAM as well.

Please ask OAM to review the attached draft and let us know of any feedback. We'd also like any documentation of the solicitation and contract that we would release for a FOIA request. Specifically, from the incoming letters:

- A copy of the initial public solicitation or notice related to the “news analysis and brief service” work put out for bid
- A copy of all formal contract responses or other indications of interest to this solicitation or notice from prospective companies seeking to bid on this work
- A copy of the final contract with Definers
- A copy of the contract between EPA and any company that provided similar media monitoring services to the agency *immediately prior* to the awarding of the contract with Definers (press reports indicate that this contract was with a company called Bulletin Intelligence, LLC)
- Copies of [any other] documents related to the procurement of services with Definers as well as the contract EPA concluded with Definers for these services

We don't need any communications at this point. Please ask OAM to flag anything that may contain Confidential Business Information (we'll also have OGC review).

Please let me know if COB Wednesday (1/10) would be reasonable for this.

I'm of course happy to talk to OAM directly if you could put me in touch with the right folks.

Thanks,
Kyle

Kyle Aarons
Congressional Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-7351

To: Stewart, Keith[Stewart.Keith@epa.gov]; Plater, Lottie[Plater.Lottie@epa.gov]; Scott, Elaine[Scott.Elaine@epa.gov]
Cc: Legare, Pamela[Legare.Pamela@epa.gov]
From: Patrick, Kimberly
Sent: Mon 1/8/2018 3:55:09 PM
Subject: Fwd: Oversight request on Definers Inc. contract
[DeFazio Definers 1-3-18.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[Whitehouse News Analysis 12-19-17.pdf](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)
[Whitehouse News Analysis 1-5-18.docx](#)
[ATT00003.htm](#)

Please provide the requested information and your comments on the draft response to me by COB Wednesday. I will compile our response and send it forward.

Kimberly Y. Patrick, Director
EPA Office of Acquisition Management
Office: 202-564-4310
Mobile: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cooper, Marian" <Cooper.Marian@epa.gov>
To: "Patrick, Kimberly" <Patrick.Kimberly@epa.gov>, "Legare, Pamela" <Legare.Pamela@epa.gov>, "Vaughn, Celia" <Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov>
Cc: "Vizian, Donna" <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>, "Showman, John" <Showman.John@epa.gov>, "Bell, Matthew" <Bell.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Aarons, Kyle" <Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov>, "Knapp, Kristien" <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>, "Gantt, Melissa" <Gantt.Melissa@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Oversight request on Definers Inc. contract

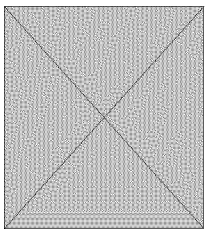
Kimberly, Pam and Celia,

Please see the request below. Kyle from Congressional Affairs, is coordinating this response. Can you please comments on the draft response and the documents requested? Please copy Matt and me on your response.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Marian

Marian Pechmann Cooper
Chief of Staff
Office of Administration and Resources Management
William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building-NORTH (3330)
Washington, DC 20460
office number -- 202 564-0620
office fax -- 202 564-0233



From: Aarons, Kyle
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 10:45 AM
To: Cooper, Marian <Cooper.Marian@epa.gov>; Bell, Matthew <Bell.Matthew@epa.gov>
Cc: Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>

Subject: Oversight request on Definers Inc. contract

Hi Marian and Matt – We are working to respond to a couple oversight requests about a contract (now canceled) with Definers Inc. to provide news analysis services to OPA. We worked with OPA to draft the attached response, but will need some help from OAM as well.

Please ask OAM to review the attached draft and let us know of any feedback. We'd also like any documentation of the solicitation and contract that we would release for a FOIA request. Specifically, from the incoming letters:

- A copy of the initial public solicitation or notice related to the "news analysis and brief service" work put out for bid
- A copy of all formal contract responses or other indications of interest to this solicitation or notice from prospective companies seeking to bid on this work
- A copy of the final contract with Definers
- A copy of the contract between EPA and any company that provided similar media monitoring services to the agency *immediately prior* to the awarding of the contract with Definers (press reports indicate that this contract was with a company called Bulletin Intelligence, LLC)
- Copies of [any other] documents related to the procurement of services with Definers as well as the contract EPA concluded with Definers for these services

We don't need any communications at this point. Please ask OAM to flag anything that may contain Confidential Business Information (we'll also have OGC review).

Please let me know if COB Wednesday (1/10) would be reasonable for this.

I'm of course happy to talk to OAM directly if you could put me in touch with the right folks.

Thanks,
Kyle

Kyle Arons
Congressional Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-7351

To: Wilson, Jessica[Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov]
From: Scott, Elaine
Sent: Mon 12/11/2017 2:25:39 PM
Subject: FW: Distribution of EP-18-H-000025 - A more legible copy

Hey Jessica,

See the email below that I just sent Donna.

Thanks,

Elaine

From: Scott, Elaine
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 9:25 AM
To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Distribution of EP-18-H-000025 - A more legible copy

Hi Donna,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Dews, Donna
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 7:27 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>; Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaine@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Distribution of EP-18-H-000025 - A more legible copy

Hi Nancy

I will

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thank you.

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-6752 (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2017 7:59 AM
To: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Distribution of EP-18-H-000025 - A more legible copy

Does this mean that the contract has been awarded? When can we start using it? Thanks much ng

Nancy Grantham

**Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)**

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Julia Cotrone [<mailto:jcotrone@definerscorp.com>]

Sent: Thursday, December 07, 2017 6:03 PM

To: Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>

Cc: Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Group DDC-Customer <DDC-Customer@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>; Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaine@epa.gov>; Plater, Lottie <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Distribution of EP-18-H-000025 - A more legible copy

Thank you, Donna! Attached is signed award -
Please let me know if theres anything else we need to do on our end to process the award.

On Thu, Dec 7, 2017 at 5:43 PM, Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov> wrote:
Oops!!!Here is a better copy.

The attached is for award. Thanks so much!!!

Donna Dews
Contract Specialist
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Acquisition Management
HPOD/Program Contract Service Center
Washington, DC 20460
[202-564-6752](tel:202-564-6752) (DIRECT)
Dews.donna@epa.gov

--

Julia Cotrone

O: 571.290.5461 | C: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**

To: Vaughn, Celia[Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov]
From: Scott, Elaine
Sent: Tue 2/6/2018 4:55:53 PM
Subject: FW: PROPOSED OAM RESPONSE + DOCUMENTS >> RE: REQUEST FOR YOU IMMEDIATE ACTION
[Documents to Congressional Response.pdf](#)
[OAM Edits Whitehouse News Analysis 1-10-18 FINAL.docx](#)

From: Patrick, Kimberly
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 2:18 PM
To: Vaughn, Celia <Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov>; Plater, Lottie <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov>
Cc: Legare, Pamela <Legare.Pamela@epa.gov>; Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Stewart, Keith <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>; Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaine@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PROPOSED OAM RESPONSE + DOCUMENTS >> RE: REQUEST FOR YOU IMMEDIATE ACTION

Celia,

The attached documents are approved to send forward in response to the subject Congressional. I understand

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

HPOD,

Thank you for coming together to complete this assignment!

Kimberly Y. Patrick, Director
EPA Office of Acquisition Management
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 564-4310
Fax: (202) 565-2475
Email: Patrick.kimberly@epa.gov

From: Vaughn, Celia
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 10:26 AM
To: Plater, Lottie <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov>
Cc: Patrick, Kimberly <Patrick.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Legare, Pamela <Legare.Pamela@epa.gov>; Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: PROPOSED OAM RESPONSE + DOCUMENTS >> RE: REQUEST FOR YOU IMMEDIATE ACTION

Hello all,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

This is due to Congressional Affairs today.

Celia M. Vaughn
Chief of Staff, USEPA Headquarters, Office of Acquisition Management
[1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Washington, DC 20460](#)
Mail Code 3805R (202) 564-1047
On Jan 9, 2018, at 5:32 PM, Plater, Lottie <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov> wrote:

OK. No problem.

Lottie Plater
Associate Director,
OARM/OAM/HPOD
Environmental Protection Agency
Email: plater.lottie@epa.gov
W: 202-564-0163

"Blowing out someone else's candle doesn't make yours shine any brighter"

From: Patrick, Kimberly

Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 5:32 PM

To: Plater, Lottie <Plater.Lottie@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Celia <Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov>; Stewart, Keith <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>; Legare, Pamela <Legare.Pamela@epa.gov>

Cc: Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaine@epa.gov>; Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: PROPOSED OAM RESPONSE + DOCUMENTS >> RE: REQUEST FOR YOU IMMEDIATE ACTION

Thank you Lottie. I have a few questions about the documents provided. I will talk with you tomorrow morning.

Kimberly Y. Patrick, Director

EPA Office of Acquisition Management

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20004

Phone: (202) 564-4310

Fax: (202) 565-2475

Email: Patrick.kimberly@epa.gov

From: Plater, Lottie

Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 3:49 PM

To: Vaughn, Celia <Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov>; Stewart, Keith <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>; Patrick, Kimberly <Patrick.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Legare, Pamela <Legare.Pamela@epa.gov>

Cc: Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaine@epa.gov>; Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>

Subject: PROPOSED OAM RESPONSE + DOCUMENTS >> RE: REQUEST FOR YOU IMMEDIATE ACTION

Importance: High

Celia,

Per your request, here are the documents for this data-call. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Lottie Plater

Associate Director,

OARM/OAM/HPOD

Environmental Protection Agency

Email: plater.lottie@epa.gov

W: 202-564-0163

"Blowing out someone else's candle doesn't make yours shine any brighter"

To: Vaughn, Celia[Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov]
From: Scott, Elaine
Sent: Tue 2/6/2018 4:46:49 PM
Subject: FW: PROPOSED OAM RESPONSE + DOCUMENTS >> RE: REQUEST FOR YOU IMMEDIATE ACTION
[OAM Edits Whitehouse News Analysis 1-5-18 \(002\).docx](#)
[Documents to Congressional Response.pdf](#)

Here is the initial data call package that Lottie sent you on January 9th.

From: Plater, Lottie
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 3:49 PM
To: Vaughn, Celia <Vaughn.Celia@epa.gov>; Stewart, Keith <Stewart.Keith@epa.gov>; Patrick, Kimberly <Patrick.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Legare, Pamela <Legare.Pamela@epa.gov>
Cc: Scott, Elaine <Scott.Elaine@epa.gov>; Brown, Rayna <brown.rayna@epa.gov>; Gosnell, Jody <Gosnell.Jody@epa.gov>; Dews, Donna <Dews.Donna@epa.gov>; Quarles, Michael <Quarles.Michael@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jessica <Wilson.Jessica@epa.gov>
Subject: PROPOSED OAM RESPONSE + DOCUMENTS >> RE: REQUEST FOR YOU IMMEDIATE ACTION
Importance: High

Celia,

Per your request, here are the documents for this data-call. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Lottie Plater
Associate Director,
OARM/OAM/HPOD
Environmental Protection Agency
Email: plater.lottie@epa.gov
W: 202-564-0163
C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

“Blowing out someone else’s candle doesn’t make yours shine any brighter”

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Fri 11/3/2017 4:16:29 PM
Subject: RE: Definers - Is there an updated on this?

Our contracts office is [redacted] It will have to be posted on a government contracts site for 5 days; [redacted]

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
[redacted] **(mobile)**

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2017 12:06 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Definers - Is there an updated on this?

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: [redacted]
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Daniell, Kelsi
Sent: Wed 5/23/2018 9:30:19 PM
Subject: FW: Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 5:14 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

(mobile)

From: Rebecca Leber [mailto:rlieber@motherjones.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 5:14 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

We're publishing a followup on the Definers contract from December. Emails obtained via FOIA show the EPA relied only on information provided by Definers to determine whether the \$120k contract was "fair and reasonable."

Can you respond to the charge that EPA "should have engaged in market research, i.e. learning what others are charging for comparable services, at a minimum."?"

Thank you

From: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 7:13 AM
To: Rebecca Leber
Cc: Grantham, Nancy
Subject: FW: Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

The Definers contract is for media monitoring/newsclip compilation.

The contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management.

Thank you.

From: Rebecca Leber <rlieber@motherjones.com>
Date: December 14, 2017 at 3:36:29 PM EST

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>, "Wilcox, Jahan" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Subject: Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

Writing to request comment on federal records showing that the EPA has hired Definers Corp., a PR firm associated with GOP campaigns, on a \$120,000 federal contract to conduct media monitoring.

What work was Definers hired for?

Can you comment on Jahan Wilcox's connections to the staff at Definers, and if he or any other staff played a role in facilitating the contract?

My deadline is end of the day, thank you

Rebecca Leber

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Kevin Bogardus
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 7:18:50 PM
Subject: RE: Definers Corp. contract with EPA

All right, I will update the piece with this. Thanks.

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter

kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (p)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (c)

202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me [@KevinBogardus](#)

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From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus
Subject: RE: Definers Corp. contract with EPA

One additional statement regarding sole-sourcing.

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 10:19 AM
To: 'Kevin Bogardus' <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Definers Corp. contract with EPA

“The Definers contract is for media monitoring/news clip compilation. The contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management and was \$87,000 cheaper than our previous media monitoring vendor while offering 24-7 news alerts once a story goes public.” – EPA spokesperson Nancy Grantham

From: Kevin Bogardus [<mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net>]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 9:54 AM
To: Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>
Subject: Definers Corp. contract with EPA

Hey everyone,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News.

I'm working on a piece about Definers Corp.'s contract with EPA

(<https://www.usaspending.gov/transparency/Pages/TransactionDetails.aspx?RecordID=53D2AF0E-B566-47BB-8EB4-728DAC00CEB7&AwardID=59978626&AwardType=C>). I had a few questions about this, which are:

-- How did this contract happen? Did Definers approach EPA first or did EPA approach Definers first?

-- What services will Definers be providing EPA? Will Definers be providing "war room" services to EPA

(https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/3d6ea3_c21da991906e440eba09e35b63bbcc10.pdf)?

-- A search of usaspending.gov shows that Definers' contract with EPA is Definers' first contract with EPA

(<https://www.usaspending.gov/Pages/AdvancedSearch.aspx?sub=y&ST=C&FY=2018,2017,2016,2015,2014,2013,2012,2011,2010,2009&A=0&SS=USA&k=definers>). Is that accurate?

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Also, since I'm working from home today, please email me here or call my cell phone at Personal Phone / Ex. 6. Thank you for your help.

Kevin Bogardus

E&E News Reporter

kbogardus@eenews.net

202-446-0401 (p)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (c)

202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me [@KevinBogardus](#)

E&E News

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EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM, E&ETV

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Fimrite, Peter
Sent: Mon 2/12/2018 9:21:15 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Any chance I could talk to Scott Pruitt? I need him to explain his philosophy, why he is doing what he is doing, ie: how the EPA had been weaponized in the past to choose winners and losers; how superfund sites have languished because of a lack of decision making; that climate change cannot be regulated because it was not part of the original mission; why it is important for him to streamline the agency. Even a statement from him or a series of quotes I could use along these lines would be helpful if he's not available.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 10:00 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

The answers with my names next to them are on the record. The tea leaves is not but let me see if I can get that approved. Does that work?

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 12:58 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Are your comments below off the record or can I quote you on any of them? You have them in quotes with your name attached. I would like to quote a couple of those answers. Also, I'm hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Can you confirm this for me?

I definitely would like to tell about the actions of Congress rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals. Can you give me some idea about what the budget passed last night means for the EPA in terms of cuts?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 6:26 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Peter –

Off-the-record, in regards to budget proposals would just remind you that this morning the Senate passed a two-year budget that will fund the government. Rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals, believe your readers would like to know the action that Congress has taken, which includes passing a budget that again funds the entire government for the next two years.

- **Today, Friday, February 9, 2018, Congress Passed A Budget That Will Fund The Government For The Next Two Years.** “After a temporary lapse in government funding that lasted through the night, Congress passed a pricey two-year spending deal early Friday that will also fund the government for an additional six weeks. The government temporarily closed after Congress failed to pass a government funding bill before a midnight deadline due to the objections of one senator, shutting down non-essential government services. In the end, a bipartisan cohort of lawmakers supported the \$400 billion agreement. Shortly after 1:30 a.m. ET, the Senate voted, 71-28, to approve a two-year spending bill that would reopen the government, and the House passed it at 5:30 a.m. with the support of 240 members. Trump tweeted Wednesday morning that he had signed the bill, officially ending the brief shutdown.” ([NBC News](#), 02/09/18)

Additionally, **below are some on-the-record responses** to your questions. Some of these answers took a while to find and we hope that you will be able to use as much as possible.

Jahan

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:54 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Thanks for getting back to me. Here are some questions and issues I'd like to have addressed:

The folks I've talked to say morale is as low as it has ever been at Region 9 and that many long time employees have been taking early retirement, buyouts or quitting as a result, mostly, in response to what they say is a de-emphasis on science and environmental protection, the core work of the EPA.

- **"From Administrator Pruitt's focus on cleaning up toxic Superfund sites, his leadership during the government shutdown that kept the agency open and paid every employee, to EPA's Region 9 where just 11 employees took an early retirement and nearly a quarter of the employees are working despite being eligible to retire, morale is great at EPA."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Three former employees and another current one say the office is short staffed, that Superfund sites have been prioritized, with some now on the back burner, and that the words "climate change" were scrubbed from contracts and grants, a form of censorship.

- **"Administrator Pruitt has placed a renewed focused on cleaning up toxic Superfund sites. We are reviewing every grant and 99.84 percent of all grants have been awarded."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.

- **"Administrator Pruitt is proud to streamline regulations, which is creating regulatory certainty."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?

- **"No this is not accurate. Like any government agency, all EPA employees are subjected to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and in terms of the FOIAs nearly all are aimed at political, not career employees."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

- **"We don't discuss who have been or not been interviewed for the Region 9 Administrator or any other position. The Administration is carefully considering many highly qualified candidates for Region 9 and will announce another great regional administrator soon."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:26 PM

To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>

Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Call me or send me specific examples and I will do my best to address them.

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Wilcox, Jahan

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:20 PM

To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Will handle.

From: Fimrite, Peter [<mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:36 PM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Questions about EPA morale

I'm working on a story about all the changes occurring at the EPA and the effect it has had on employees in the various regions, particularly region 9. I was hoping for a comment from the administration or a spokesman. Please call me at 415-777-8454.

Peter Fimrite

Staff Writer

San Francisco Chronicle

Work: 415-777-8454

Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**

Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com

Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Fimrite, Peter
Sent: Mon 2/12/2018 9:31:28 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

I listened to the New York times interviews. I was hoping to get fresh quotes from him that I don't need to steal from the New York Times.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 1:30 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Here is another interview you can pull from.

- <http://news3lv.com/news/local/epa-chief-scott-pruitt-goes-one-on-one-with-news-3>

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 4:27 PM
To: 'Fimrite, Peter' <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

In terms of these additional questions, we have addressed them in interviews with The New York Times and CBS News and you can pull your answers from them.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/02/podcasts/the-daily/scott-pruitt-epa.html>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/scott-pruitt-talks-with-major-garrett-full-interview/>

There was a lot of work from various people to get you the answers to your questions. We look forward to reading your story!

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 4:21 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Any chance I could talk to Scott Pruitt? I need him to explain his philosophy, why he is doing what he is doing, ie: how the EPA had been weaponized in the past to choose winners and losers; how superfund sites have languished because of a lack of decision making; that climate change cannot be regulated because it was not part of the original mission; why it is important for him to streamline the agency. Even a statement from him or a series of quotes I could use along these lines would be helpful if he's not available.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 10:00 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

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From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 12:58 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Are your comments below off the record or can I quote you on any of them? You have them in quotes with your name attached. I would like to quote a couple of those answers. Also, I'm hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Can you confirm this for me?

I definitely would like to tell about the actions of Congress rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals. Can you give me some idea about what the budget passed last night means for the EPA in terms of cuts?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]

Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 6:26 AM

To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Peter –

Off-the-record, in regards to budget proposals would just remind you that this morning the Senate passed a two-year budget that will fund the government. Rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals, believe your readers would like to know the action that Congress has taken, which includes passing a budget that again funds the entire government for the next two years.

- **Today, Friday, February 9, 2018, Congress Passed A Budget That Will Fund The Government For The Next Two Years.** “After a temporary lapse in government funding that lasted through the night, Congress passed a pricey two-year spending deal early Friday that will also fund the government for an additional six weeks. The government temporarily closed after Congress failed to pass a government funding bill before a midnight deadline due to the objections of one senator, shutting down non-essential government services. In the end, a bipartisan cohort of lawmakers supported the \$400 billion agreement. Shortly after 1:30 a.m. ET, the Senate voted, 71-28, to approve a two-year spending bill that would reopen the government, and the House passed it at 5:30 a.m. with the support of 240 members. Trump tweeted Wednesday morning that he had signed the bill, officially ending the brief shutdown.” ([NBC News](#), 02/09/18)

Additionally, **below are some on-the-record responses** to your questions. Some of these answers took a while to find and we hope that you will be able to use as much as possible.

Jahan

From: Fimrite, Peter [<mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:54 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Thanks for getting back to me. Here are some questions and issues I'd like to have addressed:

The folks I've talked to say morale is as low as it has ever been at Region 9 and that many long time employees have been taking early retirement, buyouts or quitting as a result, mostly, in response to what they say is a de-emphasis on science and environmental protection, the core work of the EPA.

- **“From Administrator Pruitt’s focus on cleaning up toxic Superfund sites, his leadership during the government shutdown that kept the agency open and paid every employee, to EPA’s Region 9 where just 11 employees took an early retirement and nearly a quarter of the employees are working despite being eligible to retire, morale is great at EPA.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Three former employees and another current one say the office is short staffed, that Superfund sites have been prioritized, with

some now on the back burner, and that the words “climate change” were scrubbed from contracts and grants, a form of censorship.

- **“Administrator Pruitt has placed a renewed focused on cleaning up toxic Superfund sites. We are reviewing every grant and 99.84 percent of all grants have been awarded.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.

- **“Administrator Pruitt is proud to streamline regulations, which is creating regulatory certainty.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?

- **“No this is not accurate. Like any government agency, all EPA employees are subjected to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and in terms of the FOIAs nearly all are aimed at political, not career employees.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

- **“We don’t discuss who have been or not been interviewed for the Region 9 Administrator or any other position. The Administration is carefully considering many highly qualified candidates for Region 9 and will announce another great regional administrator soon.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:26 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Call me or send me specific examples and I will do my best to address them.

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:20 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Will handle.

From: Fimrite, Peter [<mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:36 PM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Questions about EPA morale

I'm working on a story about all the changes occurring at the EPA and the effect it has had on employees in the various regions, particularly region 9. I was hoping for a comment from the administration or a spokesman. Please call me at 415-777-8454.

Peter Fimrite

Staff Writer

San Francisco Chronicle

Work: 415-777-8454

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Email: pfimrite@sfnchronicle.com

Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 7:32:01 PM
Subject: Fwd: Follow up question on MJ story

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Date: December 15, 2017 at 2:29:14 PM EST
To: "Wilcox, Jahan" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: "Bowman, Liz" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>, "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>, Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up question on MJ story

And the name of the other vendor?
And the contract please?

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, The New York Times
202-862-0306 office
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell
Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com
Twitter: @LFFriedman

On Dec 15, 2017, at 1:41 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

"When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers." - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

From: Lisa Friedman [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 10:21 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up question on MJ story

And why was this a no-bid contract when other companies perform the same service?

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, The New York Times
202-862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com

Twitter: @LFFriedman

On Dec 15, 2017, at 10:20 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

“The Definers contract is for media monitoring/news clip compilation. The contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management and was \$87,000 cheaper than our previous media monitoring vendor while offering 24-7 news alerts once a story goes public.” – EPA spokesperson Nancy Grantham

From: Lisa Friedman [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 10:15 AM

To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Follow up question on MJ story

Hello,

Can you please provide a comment about why the news compilation that Definers has been hired to do can not be performed in house?

Secondly - were there any issues with Bulletin that caused EPA to switch providers for this service?

Third, as there are clearly other companies that perform this work – – like the one EPA had previously contracted with – – can you please provide an explanation of why this was a no-bid contract.

Thank you,
Lisa

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, The New York Times
[202-862-0306](tel:202-862-0306) office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com

Twitter: @LFFriedman

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Josh Siegel
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 7:58:05 PM
Subject: Re: Can you update your story - this was not no bid.

John wrote this. I will let him know.

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 2:57 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Confirming you received this.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 2:29 PM
To: 'Josh Siegel' <jsiegel@washingtonexaminer.com>
Cc: 'John Siciliano' <jsiciliano@washingtonexaminer.com>
Subject: Can you update your story - this was not no bid.

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: Personal Phone / Ex. 6
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Friedman, Lisa
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 9:34:23 PM
Subject: Re: apologies for all the back and forth

ok. the contract says \$120K - that's not accurate?

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Definers was awarded the contract to do our press clips at a rate that is \$87,000 cheaper than our previous vendor and they are providing no other services.

This year, EPA has received over 10,000 public information requests from journalists and individuals across the political spectrum and we're responding to them in a manner that is fair and efficient.

If you have questions regarding how Definers operates, we encourage you to contact them.

> On Dec 15, 2017, at 3:09 PM, Friedman, Lisa <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com> wrote:

>

> But a few more things were just brought to my attention that require a few more questions.

>

> America Rising, which as you know shares top leadership with Definers Corp., has filed more than 200 FOIAs with EPA since 2015. Most recently they have requested information, including emails and other data, about a number of EPA employees - including many who have spoken out publicly against the agency like Betsy Southerland, Michael Cox and John O'Grady.

>

> Can you please offer me a comment on whether EPA believes it is appropriate to hire a firm that shares ownership with an organization that has investigated its employees?

>

> Thank you

> Lisa

>

> --

> Lisa Friedman

> Reporter, New York Times

> (202) 862-0306 office

> Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

>

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
(202) 251-2083 cell

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Friedman, Lisa
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 10:05:36 PM
Subject: Re: apologies for all the back and forth

got it ty

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 4:54 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

That is correct - 120 annually or 10 a month. The old vendor was 207 annually. A savings of 87,000.

On Dec 15, 2017, at 4:36 PM, Friedman, Lisa <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com> wrote:

ok. the contract says \$120K - that's not accurate?

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

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>

> Thank you

> Lisa

>

> ---

> Lisa Friedman

> Reporter, New York Times

> (202) 862-0306 office

> Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

>

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

--
Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

 cell

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Kathryn Watson
Sent: Sat 12/16/2017 5:53:41 PM
Subject: Re: Reaching out re NYT story + decision to hire Definers

Thanks so much, Jahan.

On Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 12:49 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Definers was awarded the contract to do our press clips at a rate that is \$87,000 cheaper than our previous vendor and they are providing no other services.

This year, EPA has received over 10,000 public information requests from journalists and individuals across the political spectrum and we're responding to them in a manner that is fair and efficient.

If you have questions regarding how Definers operates, we encourage you to contact them.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 16, 2017, at 12:47 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

“The Definers contract is for news clip compilation. The contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management and was \$87,000 cheaper than our previous media monitoring vendor while offering 24-7 news alerts once a story goes public.” – EPA spokesperson Nancy Grantham

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 16, 2017, at 12:46 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 16, 2017, at 11:47 AM, Kathryn Watson <kathryn.watson@cbsinteractive.com> wrote:

Good morning,

I wanted to reach out after the [NYT story published last night](#) described the EPA's decision to hire Definers to handle media work.

Specifically, I wanted to confirm the details of the contract — \$120,000 to handle media, which apparently was cheaper than the last deal?

But I also wanted to know if anyone at the EPA in any way directed Definers to look into EPA employees who might contradict the president's agenda?

Thank you, and my cell is [Personal Phone / Ex. 6]

--

Kathryn (Katie) Watson
Politics Reporter, CBS Digital
Cell: [Personal Phone / Ex. 6]
Twitter: @kathrynw5

--

Kathryn (Katie) Watson
Politics Reporter, CBS Digital
Cell: [Personal Phone / Ex. 6]
Twitter: @kathrynw5

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Friedman, Lisa
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 3:41:36 PM
Subject: contract info

Hi Jahan.
Here's a copy of the contract for Definers Public Affairs

<https://www.usaspending.gov/transparency/Pages/TransactionDetails.aspx?RecordID=53D2AF0E-B566-47BB-8EB4-728DAC00CEB7&AwardID=59978626&AwardType=C>

As you'll see under competition details, it says the contract was not competed, and the reason it gives is "only one source - other."

Under 'numbers of offers received' it says: 1

By contrast, for example, here is the contract with Bulletin. It says under competition details that it was "competed under SAP." (simplified acquisition procedures)

<https://www.usaspending.gov/transparency/Pages/TransactionDetails.aspx?RecordID=3B728BF9-DC6E-45F1-BF65-BA5E42ACFE4C&AwardID=49688963&AwardType=C>

So - it appears clear here that the contract with Definers was a no-bid contract. If that's not in fact the case, then I'd like to request some explanation as to why it clearly says so on the contract itself.

And if indeed, as the contract states, it was a sole-source notification, then please provide an explanation as to why.

Thanks,
Lisa

--
Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

To: jpounder@definercorp.com[jpounder@definercorp.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thur 9/28/2017 7:29:40 PM
Subject: FW: Definers -- Clips

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Definers -- Clips

HI –

Working with contracts on this – here is the remaining issue that the contracting officer brought to me yesterday --

Specifically, the vendor is not registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). In order for any vendor to receive a contract from the federal government, they must be registered in this system. The vendor seems to be reluctant to register.

George had been working with the vendor on this. I have a call into the vendor as they may need assistance in completing the forms.

Will update you as soon as I hear from the vendor.

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:02 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Definers -- Clips
Importance: High

Where are we on this and when can we get this going? Today is a day where we could really use their help capturing clips in real time. This is very important and our wait and the process to do this has been way too long. Thank you!

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Biesecker, Michael[MBiesecker@ap.org]; Pace, Julie[JPace@ap.org]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Mon 12/18/2017 10:10:09 PM
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Adding Julie Pace, again. We have answered your questions with the following on-the-record statements.

“A similar security sweep was done for EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

“Administrator Pruitt has received an unprecedented amount of threats against him and while the Associated Press attempts to trivialize his safety, there is nothing nefarious about security decisions made by EPA’s Protective Service Detail.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

“Please ask your source, who apparently has access to the database of EPA’s expenditures.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 5:05 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Also confirming that you decline to comment on the specific questions in yellow below ...

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 1:27 PM
To: 'Wilcox, Jahan' <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Jahan,

Again, we are willing to include the details of the similar spending under Lisa Jackson, but we don’t have immediate access to EPA’s records. Please provide the details of the spending to which you refer. Otherwise, we will be left to say we couldn’t immediately verify the charge you claim. Could you at least provide the date, amount and contractor so we can try to check it out?

Also, just to clarify, is it you on-the-record contention that Pruitt in no way requested the bug sweep, but that this was an independent decision made solely by the EPA Protective Service Detail? Can you say concretely whether the administrator was even aware of the decision?

Thanks,

Michael

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 1:16 PM
To: Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>; Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Julie and Michael – below are the answers in bold.

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 1:05 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Jahan,

Could you please clarify how electronic surveillance would potentially imperil Administrator Pruitt's physical security?

"Administrator Pruitt has received an unprecedented amount of threats against him and while the Associated Press attempts to trivialize his safety, there is nothing nefarious about security decisions made by EPA's Protective Service Detail." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Also, we have not seen and, depending on the amount, don't have access to what was spent on a bug sweep under Lisa Jackson, but I'm interested in reporting that out. Can you provide the documentation on that, including the date, amount and the name of the vendor?

"Please ask your source, who apparently has access to the database of EPA's expenditures." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Thanks,

Michael

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:29 PM

To: Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>; Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: Julie and Michael -

Below are our on-the-record responses in bold that you can attribute to me.

From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 11:47 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: Bug sweeping, biometric locks

Liz, Jahan,

AP will be publishing a story about \$3,000 in taxpayer funds expended in April for a contractor to sweep Administrator Pruitt's office for electronic listening devices. We will also be reporting on spending to install biometric locks in his suite.

When coupled with the previously reported purchase of the privacy booth, it raises questions about why Pruitt feels the need to invest in counter-surveillance measures that none of his predecessors felt were necessary. EPA headquarters is a secure building with armed security and metal detectors at the entrances. Pruitt also has his personal security detail. Is the administrator concerned about the potential for electronic spying against him by the agency's own employees?

"Administrator Pruitt has received an unprecedented amount of threats against him and while the Associated Press attempts to trivialize his safety, there is nothing nefarious about security decisions made by EPA's Protective Service Detail." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

As part of the same story, we will also be mentioning the \$120,000 Definers contract and the FOIAs filed by America Rising targeted at EPA employees viewed as potentially disloyal to the Trump administration. Please provide any comment you have on those issues.

"Definers was awarded the contract to do our press clips at a rate that is \$87,000 cheaper than our previous vendor and they are providing no other services. This year, EPA has received over 10,000 public information requests from

journalists and individuals across the political spectrum and we're responding to them in a manner that is fair and efficient. If you have questions regarding how Definers operates, we encourage you to contact them.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Thanks,

Michael



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Biesecker

Reporter

mbiesecker@ap.org

Twitter: @mbieseck

[Public Key](#)

1100 13 St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-4076

T 202-641-9445

M Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Have a tip for the Associated Press? We have a secure way to send it to us, anonymously. Follow this link for instructions:

www.ap.org/tips

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“There are only two forces that can carry light to all corners of the globe – the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here.” -- Mark Twain, 1906

“I go with Custer and will be at the death.” – AP reporter Mark Kellogg’s final dispatch from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

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To: Fimrite, Peter[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thur 2/8/2018 8:44:50 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Still working on this.

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:54 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Thanks for getting back to me. Here are some questions and issues I'd like to have addressed:

- 1- The folks I've talked to say morale is as low as it has ever been at Region 9 and that many long time employees have been taking early retirement, buyouts or quitting as a result, mostly, in response to what they say is a de-emphasis on science and environmental protection, the core work of the EPA.
- 2- Three former employees and another current one say the office is short staffed, that Superfund sites have been prioritized, with some now on the back burner, and that the words "climate change" were scrubbed from contracts and grants, a form of censorship.
- 3- Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.
- 4- Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?
- 5- Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:26 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Call me or send me specific examples and I will do my best to address them.

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:20 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Will handle.

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:36 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions about EPA morale

I'm working on a story about all the changes occurring at the EPA and the effect it has had on employees in the various regions, particularly region 9. I was hoping for a comment from the administration or a spokesman. Please call me at 415-777-8454.

Peter Fimrite

Staff Writer

San Francisco Chronicle

Work: 415-777-8454

Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**

Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com

Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Fimrite, Peter[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thur 2/8/2018 10:01:17 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

I will have something for you in the morning. Answers are going through for approval.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 3:45 PM
To: 'Fimrite, Peter' <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Still working on this.

From: Fimrite, Peter [<mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:54 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Thanks for getting back to me. Here are some questions and issues I'd like to have addressed:

- 1- The folks I've talked to say morale is as low as it has ever been at Region 9 and that many long time employees have been taking early retirement, buyouts or quitting as a result, mostly, in response to what they say is a de-emphasis on science and environmental protection, the core work of the EPA.
- 2- Three former employees and another current one say the office is short staffed, that Superfund sites have been prioritized, with some now on the back burner, and that the words "climate change" were scrubbed from contracts and grants, a form of censorship.
- 3- Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.
- 4- Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?
- 5- Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:26 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Call me or send me specific examples and I will do my best to address them.

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:20 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

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Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com

Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Friedman, Lisa
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 5:28:37 PM
Subject: well, then on a different subject...

Got a comment about Definers dropping out of the contract?

--
Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

To: Fimrite, Peter[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 2/9/2018 2:25:54 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Peter –

Off-the-record, in regards to budget proposals would just remind you that this morning the Senate passed a two-year budget that will fund the government. Rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals, believe your readers would like to know the action that Congress has taken, which includes passing a budget that again funds the entire government for the next two years.

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Peter Fimrite
Staff Writer
San Francisco Chronicle
Work: 415-777-8454
Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**
Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Friedman, Lisa
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 5:43:50 PM
Subject: Re: well, then on a different subject...

Thanks so much. Is Washington Post accurate that EPA cancelled it? Joe's statement sort of indicates it was a mutual decision.

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 12:41 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

“How we consume the news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Friedman, Lisa [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 12:29 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: well, then on a different subject...

Got a comment about Definers dropping out of the contract?

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Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

cell

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cell

To: Fimrite, Peter[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 2/9/2018 6:00:13 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

The answers with my names next to them are on the record. The tea leaves is not but let me see if I can get that approved. Does that work?

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 12:58 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Are your comments below off the record or can I quote you on any of them? You have them in quotes with your name attached. I would like to quote a couple of those answers. Also, I'm hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Can you confirm this for me?

I definitely would like to tell about the actions of Congress rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals. Can you give me some idea about what the budget passed last night means for the EPA in terms of cuts?

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To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

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To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>

Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

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EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

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Staff Writer

San Francisco Chronicle

Work: 415-777-8454

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Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com

Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Dennis, Brady
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:04:27 PM
Subject: RE: Hey

Thanks. Who was the additional vendor?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:02 PM
To: Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>
Subject: Hey

Your story says it was a no-bid contract. That is not accurate and we have this on-the-record statement regarding that “no-bid” language:

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

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Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Fimrite, Peter[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 2/9/2018 6:14:56 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

I will call you but below is an on-the-record statement regarding 10 percent cut question:

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Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
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To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Dennis, Brady
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:10:42 PM
Subject: RE: Hey
[definers.jpg](#)

Sorry, just want to clarify. Attaching a screenshot from the online contract. It says that it was “not competed,” which seems to suggest no-bid. But you’re just saying that’s not the case?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
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To: Fimrite, Peter[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 2/9/2018 7:15:15 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Peter –

Can I update this answer regarding the 10 percent cut.

Q: I’m hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA’s Office of the Chief

On-The-Record Response: **“No, this is not accurate.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

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- “We don’t discuss who have been or not been interviewed for the Region 9 Administrator or any other position. The Administration is carefully considering many highly qualified candidates for Region 9 and will announce another great regional administrator soon.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:26 PM

To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>

Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Call me or send me specific examples and I will do my best to address them.

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Wilcox, Jahan

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:20 PM

To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Will handle.

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Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:36 PM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Questions about EPA morale

I’m working on a story about all the changes occurring at the EPA and the effect it has had on employees in the various regions, particularly region 9. I was hoping for a comment from the administration or a spokesman. Please call me at 415-777-8454.

Peter Fimrite

Staff Writer

San Francisco Chronicle

Work: 415-777-8454

Cell: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com

Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Fimrite, Peter[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 2/9/2018 10:26:05 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Off-the-record, I do not do grants and the individual that does that has left for the day. I can get you an answer on Monday or you can just put decline to comment. I feel like I've done the best to answer as many questions as possible, instead of just one blanket statement. I will circle back on Monday but you could print without me.

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 1:59 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

What about scrubbing documents of the words "climate change." What was the purpose?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 10:15 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

I will call you but below is an on-the-record statement regarding 10 percent cut question:

I'm hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA's Office of the Chief

"Decisions on office reductions, if needed, will be made based on the final FY2018 budget." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 12:58 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Are your comments below off the record or can I quote you on any of them? You have them in quotes with your name attached. I would like to quote a couple of those answers. Also, I'm hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Can you confirm this for me?

I definitely would like to tell about the actions of Congress rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals. Can you give me some idea about what the budget passed last night means for the EPA in terms of cuts?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 6:26 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Peter –

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Additionally, **below are some on-the-record responses** to your questions. Some of these answers took a while to find and we hope that you will be able to use as much as possible.

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To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

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- **"No this is not accurate. Like any government agency, all EPA employees are subjected to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and in terms of the FOIAs nearly all are aimed at political, not career employees."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

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Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

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Staff Writer
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Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com
Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Daniell, Kelsi
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:46:28 PM
Subject: FW: Time-sensitive request from Bloomberg Government regarding Definers

Making sure you saw this.

From: Skolnik, Samuel [mailto:sskolnik@bgov.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:37 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Time-sensitive request from Bloomberg Government regarding Definers

Hi all. I cover federal contracting and procurement issues for Bloomberg Government, and am working on a daily story based off of reports that EPA today has dropped the contract with Definers Corp. to help the EPA shape press coverage of the agency, through a no-bid contract.

Questions:

- 1 – Why did EPA drop the Definers contract?
- 2 – Why was this a sole-source solicitation in the first place?
- 3 – How did EPA decide to solicit the work from Definers Corp. specifically?
- 4 – What did EPA need to do to justify this as a sole-source solicitation? Did the agency do what it needed to, to abide the Federal Acquisition Regulation and other pertinent laws? What exactly was that?
- 5 – Does EPA believe there are inherent risks to agencies, and by extension taxpayers, in no-bid contracts? If so, what are they?

I’m looking for comment (or EPA’s written thoughts, attributable to Jahan Wilcox or whoever the right person might be) by 4 p.m. today. My contact info is below.

Thank you,
Sam

:

Sam Skolnik
Senior Reporter

Bloomberg Government

Direct: (202) 416-3328
Cell: Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 *(On Fridays, please call my Cell)*
sskolnik@bgov.com
[@samskolnik](#)

To: Fimrite, Peter[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Mon 2/12/2018 9:27:19 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

In terms of these additional questions, we have addressed them in interviews with The New York Times and CBS News and you can pull your answers from them.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/02/podcasts/the-daily/scott-pruitt-epa.html>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/scott-pruitt-talks-with-major-garrett-full-interview/>

There was a lot of work from various people to get you the answers to your questions. We look forward to reading your story!

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 4:21 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Any chance I could talk to Scott Pruitt? I need him to explain his philosophy, why he is doing what he is doing, ie: how the EPA had been weaponized in the past to choose winners and losers; how superfund sites have languished because of a lack of decision making; that climate change cannot be regulated because it was not part of the original mission; why it is important for him to streamline the agency. Even a statement from him or a series of quotes I could use along these lines would be helpful if he's not available.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 10:00 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

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To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Daniell, Kelsi
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:52:18 PM
Subject: FW: Inquiry re: Whitehouse/Harris letter on Definers

Making sure you saw this one.

From: Jackie Toth [mailto:jackietoth@cqrollcall.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 12:59 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Inquiry re: Whitehouse/Harris letter on Definers

Hi all,

Can the EPA please comment on the inquiry from Whitehouse and Harris today with concerns over conflicts of interest in the no-bid contract with Definers Public Affairs? Can the agency be specific on what services the firm is providing for the agency? Will the EPA be responding by Thursday as requested?

Deadline is no later than 3:15pm today.

Thanks all,
Jackie

Jackie Toth
CQ Legal
Energy & Environment Reporter/Analyst
O: 202-650-6518
C: Personal Phone / Ex. 6
@JackieTothDC

This e-mail may contain confidential material. If you are not an intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies. It may also contain personal views which are not the views of CQ Roll Call or its owner, The Economist Group. We may monitor e-mail to and from our network. For company information go to <http://legal.economistgroup.com>.

To: Fimrite, Peter[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
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Here is another interview you can pull from.

- <http://news3lv.com/news/local/epa-chief-scott-pruitt-goes-one-on-one-with-news-3>

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- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/scott-pruitt-talks-with-major-garrett-full-interview/>

There was a lot of work from various people to get you the answers to your questions. We look forward to reading your story!

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To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Jackie Toth
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:51:21 PM
Subject: Re: Q re: Definers contract

Thanks Jahan. Sorry, want to be clear here - background is fine for this bit - the EPA has canceled the contract effective today?

Jackie Toth
CQ Legal
Energy & Environment Reporter/Analyst
O: 202-650-6518

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

@JackieTothDC

On 19 December 2017 at 13:49, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

“How we consume our news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Jackie Toth [mailto:jackietoht@cqrollcall.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Molly Block <Molly.Block@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Q re: Definers contract

Hi all,

Can we get confirmation that the EPA canceled the Definers contract? When will Definers' services be fully terminated? Does the EPA intend to issue a replacement contract, and will it be opened to a bid?

Deadline's no later than 3:30pm today, if possible.

Thanks much,
Jackie

Jackie Toth
CQ Legal
Energy & Environment Reporter/Analyst
O: 202-650-6518

@JackieTothDC

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To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Dennis, Brady
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:51:43 PM
Subject: RE: Hey

Ok, thanks.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:49 PM
To: Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: Hey

I have been told that is not the case. The statement below was written by our contract office.

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

From: Dennis, Brady [mailto:Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:11 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hey

Sorry, just want to clarify. Attaching a screenshot from the online contract. It says that it was “not competed,” which seems to suggest no-bid. But you’re just saying that’s not the case?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:02 PM
To: Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>
Subject: Hey

Your story says it was a no-bid contract. That is not accurate and we have this on-the-record statement regarding that “no-bid” language:

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Fimrite, Peter
Sent: Wed 2/7/2018 8:53:52 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Thanks for getting back to me. Here are some questions and issues I'd like to have addressed:

1. The folks I've talked to say morale is as low as it has ever been at Region 9 and that many long time employees have been taking early retirement, buyouts or quitting as a result, mostly, in response to what they say is a de-emphasis on science and environmental protection, the core work of the EPA.
2. Three former employees and another current one say the office is short staffed, that Superfund sites have been prioritized, with some now on the back burner, and that the words "climate change" were scrubbed from contracts and grants, a form of censorship.
3. Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.
4. Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?
5. Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:26 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Call me or send me specific examples and I will do my best to address them.

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: Personal Phone / Ex. 6
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:20 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Will handle.

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:36 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions about EPA morale

I'm working on a story about all the changes occurring at the EPA and the effect it has had on employees in the various regions, particularly region 9. I was hoping for a comment from the administration or a spokesman. Please call me at 415-777-8454.

Peter Fimrite
Staff Writer
San Francisco Chronicle
Work: 415-777-8454

Cell. **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**

Email: pfimrite@sfgchronicle.com

Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Fimrite, Peter
Sent: Thur 2/8/2018 8:58:34 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Thanks, man. Would also like to confirm how many people are employed in Region 9. I hear it's 650. Also, please confirm or correct the following statement, some of which was published in the New York Times:

More than 700 employees nationwide have left the EPA since Trump was elected, about 400 of them through buyouts. President Trump's proposed budget calls for a 30 percent cut in 2018, which could mean a loss of 3,000 to 4,000 of the nearly 15,000 EPA employees nationwide. The Superfund program's budget would be cut by almost a quarter from \$1 billion to \$762 million.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2018 12:45 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Still working on this.

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:54 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Thanks for getting back to me. Here are some questions and issues I'd like to have addressed:

1. The folks I've talked to say morale is as low as it has ever been at Region 9 and that many long time employees have been taking early retirement, buyouts or quitting as a result, mostly, in response to what they say is a de-emphasis on science and environmental protection, the core work of the EPA.
2. Three former employees and another current one say the office is short staffed, that Superfund sites have been prioritized, with some now on the back burner, and that the words "climate change" were scrubbed from contracts and grants, a form of censorship.
3. Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.
4. Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?
5. Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

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Call me or send me specific examples and I will do my best to address them.

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Wilcox, Jahan

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:20 PM

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I'm working on a story about all the changes occurring at the EPA and the effect it has had on employees in the various regions, particularly region 9. I was hoping for a comment from the administration or a spokesman. Please call me at 415-777-8454.

Peter Fimrite

Staff Writer

San Francisco Chronicle

Work: 415-777-8454

Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**

Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com

Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Fimrite, Peter
Sent: Fri 2/9/2018 5:58:23 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Are your comments below off the record or can I quote you on any of them? You have them in quotes with your name attached. I would like to quote a couple of those answers. Also, I'm hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Can you confirm this for me?

I definitely would like to tell about the actions of Congress rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals. Can you give me some idea about what the budget passed last night means for the EPA in terms of cuts?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 6:26 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Peter –

Off-the-record, in regards to budget proposals would just remind you that this morning the Senate passed a two-year budget that will fund the government. Rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals, believe your readers would like to know the action that Congress has taken, which includes passing a budget that again funds the entire government for the next two years.

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Additionally, **below are some on-the-record responses** to your questions. Some of these answers took a while to find and we hope that you will be able to use as much as possible.

Jahan

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
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- **“From Administrator Pruitt’s focus on cleaning up toxic Superfund sites, his leadership during the government shutdown that kept the agency open and paid every employee, to EPA’s Region 9 where just 11 employees took an early retirement and nearly a quarter of the employees are working despite being eligible to retire, morale is great at EPA.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Three former employees and another current one say the office is short staffed, that Superfund sites have been prioritized, with some now on the back burner, and that the words “climate change” were scrubbed from contracts and grants, a form of censorship.

- **“Administrator Pruitt has placed a renewed focused on cleaning up toxic Superfund sites. We are reviewing every grant and 99.84 percent of all grants have been awarded.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.

- **“Administrator Pruitt is proud to streamline regulations, which is creating regulatory certainty.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?

- **“No this is not accurate. Like any government agency, all EPA employees are subjected to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and in terms of the FOIAs nearly all are aimed at political, not career employees.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

- **“We don’t discuss who have been or not been interviewed for the Region 9 Administrator or any other position. The Administration is carefully considering many highly qualified candidates for Region 9 and will announce another great regional administrator soon.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

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Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

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Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

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To: Press <Press@epa.gov>

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Peter Fimrite

Staff Writer

San Francisco Chronicle

Work: 415-777-8454

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com

Twitter: @pfimrite

To: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Mon 6/19/2017 3:10:52 PM
Subject: RE: Updated Proposal...

There are a bunch of offices it has to go through, no idea to be honest but George does.

From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated Proposal...

So who needs to sign it?

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:59 AM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Updated Proposal...

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Attached is the contract.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 9:38 AM
To: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; 'jpounder@definerscorp.com' <jpounder@definerscorp.com>
Subject: FW: Updated Proposal...

George –

I am adding you to this email. Can you please contact Joe Pounder and circle back with me. I believe Definers is able to do morning summaries or morning media matrixs that we can circulate within the agency to interested people and they are also capable of doing live-time alerts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Thank you,

Jahan

From: Joe Pounder [mailto:jpounder@definerscorp.com]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 5:26 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Updated Proposal...

Mr. Wilcox,

Please find attached an updated proposal with examples of actual alerts and daily matrix. Please let us know if you have any other questions. Our plan is when it is rolled out to clients, these alerts will be compiled into our Definers Console where they will be also stored and searchable in addition to emailed directly to inboxes. Thanks again.

--
Joe Pounder
jpounder@definerscorp.com
571-290-5460

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Fimrite, Peter
Sent: Fri 2/9/2018 7:22:28 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

OK, got it. Thanks.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 11:15 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Peter –

Can I update this answer regarding the 10 percent cut.

Q: I’m hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA’s Office of the Chief

On-The-Record Response: **“No, this is not accurate.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

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Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 1:15 PM
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“Decisions on office reductions, if needed, will be made based on the final FY2018 budget.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
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To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wed 6/21/2017 8:17:31 PM
Subject: FW: Where are we on getting a clips service?

Cool. Thank you!

From: Hull, George
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 4:07 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Where are we on getting a clips service?

I called Joe Pounder of Definers after you sent me his contact information. I left him a message explaining: **DPP / Ex. 5** Surprisingly, he hasn't called me back. I'll try him again and also by e-mail. - George

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Subject: Where are we on getting a clips service?

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Fimrite, Peter
Sent: Fri 2/9/2018 6:58:41 PM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

What about scrubbing documents of the words “climate change.” What was the purpose?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 10:15 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

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Additionally, **below are some on-the-record responses** to your questions. Some of these answers took a while to find and we hope that you will be able to use as much as possible.

Jahan

From: Fimrite, Peter [<mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:54 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Thanks for getting back to me. Here are some questions and issues I'd like to have addressed:

The folks I've talked to say morale is as low as it has ever been at Region 9 and that many long time employees have been taking early retirement, buyouts or quitting as a result, mostly, in response to what they say is a de-emphasis on science and environmental protection, the core work of the EPA.

- **"From Administrator Pruitt's focus on cleaning up toxic Superfund sites, his leadership during the government shutdown that kept the agency open and paid every employee, to EPA's Region 9 where just 11 employees took an early retirement and nearly a quarter of the employees are working despite being eligible to retire, morale is great at EPA."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Three former employees and another current one say the office is short staffed, that Superfund sites have been prioritized, with some now on the back burner, and that the words "climate change" were scrubbed from contracts and grants, a form of censorship.

- **"Administrator Pruitt has placed a renewed focused on cleaning up toxic Superfund sites. We are reviewing every grant and 99.84 percent of all grants have been awarded."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.

- **"Administrator Pruitt is proud to streamline regulations, which is creating regulatory certainty."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?

- **"No this is not accurate. Like any government agency, all EPA employees are subjected to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and in terms of the FOIAs nearly all are aimed at political, not career employees."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

- **"We don't discuss who have been or not been interviewed for the Region 9 Administrator or any other position. The Administration is carefully considering many highly qualified candidates for Region 9 and will announce another great regional administrator soon."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:26 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Call me or send me specific examples and I will do my best to address them.

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Personal Phone / Ex. 6
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:20 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Will handle.

From: Fimrite, Peter [<mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:36 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions about EPA morale

I'm working on a story about all the changes occurring at the EPA and the effect it has had on employees in the various regions, particularly region 9. I was hoping for a comment from the administration or a spokesman. Please call me at 415-777-8454.

Peter Fimrite
Staff Writer
San Francisco Chronicle
Work: 415-777-8454
Personal Phone / Ex. 6
Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com
Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Fimrite, Peter
Sent: Sat 2/10/2018 12:37:45 AM
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Thanks Jahan. You've been a big help. I think I'm good without this final answer. Story is running Sunday.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 2:26 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Off-the-record, I do not do grants and the individual that does that has left for the day. I can get you an answer on Monday or you can just put decline to comment. I feel like I've done the best to answer as many questions as possible, instead of just one blanket statement. I will circle back on Monday but you could print without me.

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 1:59 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

What about scrubbing documents of the words "climate change." What was the purpose?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 10:15 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

I will call you but below is an on-the-record statement regarding 10 percent cut question:

I'm hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA's Office of the Chief

"Decisions on office reductions, if needed, will be made based on the final FY2018 budget." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Fimrite, Peter [mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 12:58 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Are your comments below off the record or can I quote you on any of them? You have them in quotes with your name attached. I would like to quote a couple of those answers. Also, I'm hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Can you confirm this for me?

I definitely would like to tell about the actions of Congress rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals. Can you give me some idea about what the budget passed last night means for the EPA in terms of cuts?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 6:26 AM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Peter –

Off-the-record, in regards to budget proposals would just remind you that this morning the Senate passed a two-year

budget that will fund the government. Rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals, believe your readers would like to know the action that Congress has taken, which includes passing a budget that again funds the entire government for the next two years.

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Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:26 PM
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Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Call me or send me specific examples and I will do my best to address them.

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:20 PM
To: Fimrite, Peter <PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions about EPA morale

Will handle.

From: Fimrite, Peter [<mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:36 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions about EPA morale

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Peter Fimrite

Staff Writer

San Francisco Chronicle

Work: 415-777-8454

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com

Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Mon 7/10/2017 4:41:11 PM
Subject: RE: Media Clips Service Contract

Cool

From: Hull, George
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2017 12:24 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Media Clips Service Contract

Jahan,

I checked with Definers whether **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Also, just wanted to check, most of past leaders (appointed and career) have wanted **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2017 11:29 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Media Clips Service Contract

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

George, do we now have everything we need to get this in the system and get it moving? thanksng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2017 11:27 AM
To: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Media Clips Service Contract

I would update this to **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Additionally, in terms of **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5 My suggestion would be **Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Hull, George
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2017 10:02 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Media Clips Service Contract

Hi Jahan,

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks, George

From: Hull, George
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2017 6:40 PM
To: Nancy Grantham (grantham.nancy@epa.gov) <grantham.nancy@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Media Clips Service Contract

Nancy and Jahan,

Please find attached the draft "Statement of Work" for the Definers contract that we are developing. The Statement of Work is the section of the contract that lays out the details of what we expect the company to provide, parameters on delivery, timing, etc. I believe this language to be consistent with our conversations on the services we are seeking, but thought it was important that you review and have a chance to discuss or suggest changes. If you could get back to me on Monday morning, I can get any changes incorporated into the contract and continue forward. Thanks, George

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 6/27/2017 9:36:12 PM
Subject: RE: Definers

If we could lock in next Thursday morning that would be great. Otherwise this upcoming Friday works (I cant be part of it).

From: Hull, George
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 4:57 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Definers

That makes sense. I'm asking Joe to give me a demo. I would do it on Thursday, but if you would like to be part of the demo, I could find another day. - George

Personal Matters / Ex. 6

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 4:55 PM
To: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Definers

Thanks man! I am out on Friday but the rapid response clips are helpful and the interns doing a great job but we miss stuff late at night.

From: Hull, George
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 4:53 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Definers

I'm trying to get a time set up with him on Friday. - George

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 4:52 PM
To: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Subject: Definers

Where are we on setting up a call with Joe. I really don't need to do a call, I know the quality of their product. Last night a story about in the NYT and would've been nice to have someone at the helm to send that out as it happened.

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wed 10/18/2017 8:11:32 PM
Subject: We need Definers' clipping service down now.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell:

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thur 6/29/2017 1:22:20 PM
Subject: RE: Definers

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Hull, George
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 9:13 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Definers

Jahan,

I spoke with our budget team yesterday. Because this would be a \$ 120,000 contract, we cannot move forward without going through a competitive bidding process. In addition, this cost is more than OPA's budget. In the past, we have solicited funds from the program offices to reduce the portion covered by OPA. Other offices have contributed in exchange for receiving the clips once a day.

I can start the process of soliciting funds and competing the contract. If you and Liz want me to proceed, I'll get a time estimate from our budget team.

Our contact at Definers has still not returned my request for a demo. - George

Sent from my iPhone
On Jun 29, 2017, at 8:50 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

George –

I don't care how this happens but we need to make this happen as quickly as possible.

I'm trying to get a clip from an MSNBC show that is time sensitive and can't grab it because it's not online yet. We miss a lot of clips that happen overnight or on the weekends and we need a solution to fix this.

Thank you.

Jahan

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Personal Matters / Ex. 6

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EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: Personal Phone / Ex. 6
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Joe Pounder[jpounder@definerscorp.com]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wed 10/18/2017 8:13:50 PM
Subject: RE: Definers -- Clips

Guys we've been working on this since June. I don't know if the problem is with Definers or EPA but let's get this done, asap. No more delays.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:27 PM
To: Joe Pounder <jpounder@definerscorp.com>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Definers -- Clips

Great. Adding Nancy and Liz.

On Sep 28, 2017, at 4:11 PM, Joe Pounder <jpounder@definerscorp.com> wrote:

We're fully registered...

<Screen Shot 2017-09-28 at 4.23.59 PM.png>

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 3:29 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
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HI –

Working with contracts on this – here is the remaining issue that the contracting officer brought to me yesterday --

Specifically, the vendor is not registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). In order for any vendor to receive a contract from the federal government, they must be registered in this system. The vendor seems to be reluctant to register.

George had been working with the vendor on this. I have a call into the vendor as they may need assistance in completing the forms.

Will update you as soon as I hear from the vendor.

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Wilcox, Jahan

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:02 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Definers -- Clips
Importance: High

Where are we on this and when can we get this going? Today is a day where we could really use their help capturing clips in real time. This is very important and our wait and the process to do this has been way too long. Thank you!

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

--

Joe Pounder
jpounder@definerscorp.com
571-290-5460

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wed 10/18/2017 8:25:24 PM
Subject: RE: Definers -- Clips

Thank you very much!

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 4:24 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Definers -- Clips

We are just finishing the statement of work with the contracting office and then they have to advertise it for 5 days to justify "sole sourcing" this to Definers, due to the high \$ value of the contract, to make sure another vendor doesn't say they can do the same thing.

Thx ng
Sent from my iPhone
On Oct 18, 2017, at 4:13 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

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Subject: Definers -- Clips
Importance: High

Where are we on this and when can we get this going? Today is a day where we could really use their help capturing clips in real time. This is very important and our wait and the process to do this has been way too long. Thank you!

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

--

Joe Pounder
jpounder@definerscorp.com
571-290-5460

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Bodine, Susan[bodine.susan@epa.gov]
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Thur 12/14/2017 8:44:39 PM
Subject: FW: Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

I know exactly where this leak came from.

From: Rebecca Leber [mailto:rleber@motherjones.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2017 3:36 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

Writing to request comment on federal records showing that the EPA has hired Definers Corp., a PR firm associated with GOP campaigns, on a \$120,000 federal contract to conduct media monitoring.

What work was Definers hired for?

Can you comment on Jahan Wilcox's connections to the staff at Definers, and if he or any other staff played a role in facilitating the contract?

My deadline is end of the day, thank you

Rebecca Leber

To: Lipton, Eric[lipton@nytimes.com]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Lisa Friedman[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wed 12/20/2017 8:09:00 PM
Subject: RE: Question about FOIA responses here

According to the document you provided, the average time for a simple request to be filled is 18 days. Of these 17 requests, 16 were simple and 8 have been closed.

From: Lipton, Eric [mailto:lipton@nytimes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 3:46 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Subject: Re: Question about FOIA responses here

Here are the requests from Allan
Getting you comparative data on FOIA responses in general

Eric Lipton

Washington Bureau
202 862 0448 office
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 mobile
lipton@nytimes.com

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 3:34 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:
Can you send me the 17 requests and very unusual compared to ...

From: Lipton, Eric [mailto:lipton@nytimes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 3:25 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Subject: Question about FOIA responses here

The response rate that Allan Blutstein had for his FOIAs here seems very unusual.

Here are those stats for 2017:

His 2017 HQ filings: 17 total requests. 8 closed, 5 full grants, 3 no responsive docs. 9 on 'assignment'

2017 numbers for regional EPA offices:

R1: 4 requests. 4 closed. 1 full grant, 3 no responsive docs
R2: 2 requests. 2 closed, 2 no responsive docs
R3: 4 requests. 1 still being processed. 3 closed, 2 no responsive docs, 1 withdrawn
R4: 2 requests. 2 closed, 1 full grant, 1 partial grant/partial denial
R5: 4 requests. 4 closed, 3 no responsive docs, 1 full grant (O'Grady docs)
R6: 3 requests. 3 closed, 1 no responsive docs, 2 full grants
R7: 2 requests. 2 closed, 2 no responsive docs
R8: 2 requests. 2 closed, 1 no responsive docs, 1 full grant
R9: 2 requests. 2 closed, 2 no responsive docs
R10: 3 requests. 3 closed, 2 no responsive docs, 1 partial grant/partial denial (released 62 records re: Michael Cox)

Here are my questions:

1) Did anyone at the EPA instruct the agency FOIA staff to accelerate processing of these FOIA responses?

2) Was Mr. Pruitt or members of his staff, including Liz Bowman and Jahan Wilcox or Samantha Dravis and Ryan Jackson or others on his staff, notified that these FOIAs had been filed and did any of these individuals participate in anyway in the handling of these FOIAs?

3) Why did Allan Blutstein get such fast turnaround on his FOIAs. Was it based on any kind of favoritism?

Thanks in advance for your help. A response this afternoon is needed.

Eric

Eric Lipton



Washington Bureau

202 862 0448 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 mobile

lipton@nytimes.com

To: Bodine, Susan[bodine.susan@epa.gov]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thur 12/14/2017 8:47:50 PM
Subject: RE: Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

This is a leak that came from Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Definers was hired to do media monitoring in real-time (24-7) with the ability to cut clips to help our shop.

Nancy ran point on this, but Personal Matters / Ex. 6 the only person that knew I know that Definers offered this war room monitoring system.

From: Rebecca Leber [mailto:rleber@motherjones.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2017 3:36 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

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What work was Definers hired for?

Can you comment on Jahan Wilcox's connections to the staff at Definers, and if he or any other staff played a role in facilitating the contract?

My deadline is end of the day, thank you

Rebecca Leber

To: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 2:58:49 PM
Subject: RE: Definers Corp. contract with EPA

Handling.

From: Kevin Bogardus [mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 9:54 AM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>
Subject: Definers Corp. contract with EPA

Hey everyone,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News.

I'm working on a piece about Definers Corp.'s contract with EPA
(<https://www.usaspending.gov/transparency/Pages/TransactionDetails.aspx?RecordID=53D2AF0E-B566-47BB-8EB4-728DAC00CEB7&AwardID=59978626&AwardType=C>). I had a few questions about this, which are:

-- How did this contract happen? Did Definers approach EPA first or did EPA approach Definers first?

-- What services will Definers be providing EPA? Will Definers be providing "war room" services to EPA
(https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/3d6ea3_c21da991906e440eba09e35b63bbcc10.pdf)?

-- A search of usaspending.gov shows that Definers' contract with EPA is Definers' first contract with EPA
(<https://www.usaspending.gov/Pages/AdvancedSearch.aspx?sub=y&ST=C&FY=2018,2017,2016,2015,2014,2013,2012,2011,2010,2009&A=0&SS=USA&k=definers>). Is that accurate?

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Also, since I'm working from home today, please email me here or call my cell phone at 202-247-7844. Thank you for your help.

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (p)

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (C)

202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me @KevinBogardus

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EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM, E&ETV

To: Lisa Friedman[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Cc: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 3:20:07 PM
Subject: RE: Follow up question on MJ story

“The Definers contract is for media monitoring/news clip compilation. The contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management and was \$87,000 cheaper than our previous media monitoring vendor while offering 24-7 news alerts once a story goes public.” – EPA spokesperson Nancy Grantham

From: Lisa Friedman [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 10:15 AM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Follow up question on MJ story

Hello,
Can you please provide a comment about why the news compilation that Definers has been hired to do can not be performed in house?

Secondly - were there any issues with Bulletin that caused EPA to switch providers for this service?

Third, as there are clearly other companies that perform this work – – like the one EPA had previously contracted with – – can you please provide an explanation of why this was a no-bid contract.

Thank you,
Lisa

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, The New York Times
202-862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com

Twitter: @LFFriedman

To: Lisa Friedman[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 3:48:40 PM
Subject: RE: Follow up question on MJ story

Checking with the folks in the office of acquisition management.

From: Lisa Friedman [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 10:21 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up question on MJ story

And why was this a no-bid contract when other companies perform the same service?

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, The New York Times
202-862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell
Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com
Twitter: @LFFriedman

On Dec 15, 2017, at 10:20 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

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Thank you,
Lisa

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, The New York Times
202-862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com

Twitter: @LFFriedman

To: Jason Abbruzzese[jason@mashable.com]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Cc: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 3:52:09 PM
Subject: RE: Mashable media inquiry on Definers Public Affairs and the EPA

“The Definers contract is for media monitoring/news clip compilation. The contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management and was \$87,000 cheaper than our previous media monitoring vendor while offering 24-7 news alerts once a story goes public.” – EPA spokesperson Nancy Grantham

From: Jason Abbruzzese [mailto:jason@mashable.com]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Mashable media inquiry on Definers Public Affairs and the EPA

Greetings,

Jason Abbruzzese from Mashable here. I'm following up on the Mother Jones report that the EPA has been contracting Definers Public Affairs.

I'd love to know what kind of worker Definers has been doing for the EPA. Think someone could fill me in?

Cheers,

Jason

--
Jason Abbruzzese
News Editor

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Cell, please text first)

Mashable
@JasonAbbruzzese

To: John Siciliano[jsiciliano@washingtonexaminer.com]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 4:27:31 PM

“The Definers contract is for media monitoring/news clip compilation. The contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management and was \$87,000 cheaper than our previous media monitoring vendor while offering 24-7 news alerts once a story goes public.” – EPA spokesperson Nancy Grantham

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: Personal Phone / Ex. 6
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Lisa Friedman[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 6:41:24 PM
Subject: RE: Follow up question on MJ story

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

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To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up question on MJ story

And why was this a no-bid contract when other companies perform the same service?

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, The New York Times
202-862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell
Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com
Twitter: @LFFriedman

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Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 10:15 AM
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Thank you,
Lisa

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, The New York Times
202-862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com

Twitter: @LFFriedman

To: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO[Raj.S.Shah@who.eop.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 6:41:43 PM
Subject: DEFINERS ...

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 1:41 PM
To: 'Lisa Friedman' <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow up question on MJ story

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To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up question on MJ story

And why was this a no-bid contract when other companies perform the same service?

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, The New York Times
[202-862-0306](tel:202-862-0306) office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

 cell
Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com
Twitter: @LFFriedman

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Thank you,
Lisa

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, The New York Times
202-862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell
Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com
Twitter: @LFFriedman

To: John Siciliano[jsiciliano@washingtonexaminer.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 6:44:20 PM
Subject: RE:

One additional statement regarding sole-sourcing.

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:28 AM
To: 'John Siciliano' <jsiciliano@washingtonexaminer.com>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject:

“The Definers contract is for media monitoring/news clip compilation. The contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management and was \$87,000 cheaper than our previous media monitoring vendor while offering 24-7 news alerts once a story goes public.” – EPA spokesperson Nancy Grantham

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Personal Phone / Ex. 6
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Josh Siegel[jsiegel@washingtonexaminer.com]
Cc: John Siciliano[jsiciliano@washingtonexaminer.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 7:29:23 PM
Subject: Can you update your story - this was not no bid.

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Josh Siegel[jsiegel@washingtonexaminer.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 7:57:26 PM
Subject: RE: Can you update your story - this was not no bid.

Confirming you received this.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 2:29 PM
To: 'Josh Siegel' <jsiegel@washingtonexaminer.com>
Cc: 'John Siciliano' <jsiciliano@washingtonexaminer.com>
Subject: Can you update your story - this was not no bid.

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Personal Phone / Ex. 6
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Friedman, Lisa[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 9:54:58 PM
Subject: Re: apologies for all the back and forth

That is correct - 120 annually or 10 a month. The old vendor was 207 annually. A savings of 87,000.

On Dec 15, 2017, at 4:36 PM, Friedman, Lisa <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com> wrote:

ok. the contract says \$120K - that's not accurate?

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Definers was awarded the contract to do our press clips at a rate that is \$87,000 cheaper than our previous vendor and they are providing no other services.

This year, EPA has received over 10,000 public information requests from journalists and individuals across the political spectrum and we're responding to them in a manner that is fair and efficient.

If you have questions regarding how Definers operates, we encourage you to contact them.

> On Dec 15, 2017, at 3:09 PM, Friedman, Lisa <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com> wrote:

>

> But a few more things were just brought to my attention that require a few more questions.

>

> America Rising, which as you know shares top leadership with Definers Corp., has filed more than 200 FOIAs with EPA since 2015. Most recently they have requested information, including emails and other data, about a number of EPA employees - including many who have spoken out publicly against the agency like Betsy Southerland, Michael Cox and John O'Grady.

>

> Can you please offer me a comment on whether EPA believes it is appropriate to hire a firm that shares ownership with an organization that has investigated its employees?

>

> Thank you

> Lisa

>

> --

> Lisa Friedman

> Reporter, New York Times

> (202) 862-0306 office

> **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**

>

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Pace, Julie[JPace@ap.org]; Biesecker, Michael[MBiesecker@ap.org]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Mon 12/18/2017 5:28:53 PM
Subject: Julie and Michael -

Below are our on-the-record responses in bold that you can attribute to me.

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 11:47 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Bug sweeping, biometric locks

Liz, Jahan,

AP will be publishing a story about \$3,000 in taxpayer funds expended in April for a contractor to sweep Administrator Pruitt’s office for electronic listening devices. We will also be reporting on spending to install biometric locks in his suite.

When coupled with the previously reported purchase of the privacy booth, it raises questions about why Pruitt feels the need to invest in courter-surveillance measures that none of his predecessors felt were necessary. EPA headquarters is a secure building with armed security and metal detectors at the entrances. Pruitt also has his personal security detail. Is the administrator concerned about the potential for electronic spying against him by the agency’s own employees?

“Administrator Pruitt has received an unprecedented amount of threats against him and while the Associated Press attempts to trivialize his safety, there is nothing nefarious about security decisions made by EPA’s Protective Service Detail.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

As part of the same story, we will also be mentioning the \$120,000 Definers contract and the FOIAs filed by America Rising targeted at EPA employees viewed as potentially disloyal to the Trump administration. Please provide any comment you have on those issues.

“Definers was awarded the contract to do our press clips at a rate that is \$87,000 cheaper than our previous vendor and they are providing no other services. This year, EPA has received over 10,000 public information requests from journalists and individuals across the political spectrum and we're responding to them in a manner that is fair and efficient. If you have questions regarding how Definers operates, we encourage you to contact them.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Thanks,

Michael



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Biesecker
Reporter
mbiesecker@ap.org
Twitter: @mbieseck
[Public Key](#)

1100 13 St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-4076

T 202-641-9445

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Have a tip for the Associated Press? We have a secure way to send it to us, anonymously. Follow this link for instructions:
www.ap.org/tips

AP is the essential global news network, delivering fast, unbiased news from every corner of the world to all media platforms and formats. Founded in 1846, AP today is the largest and most trusted source of independent news and information. On any given day, more than half the world's population sees news from AP.

"There are only two forces that can carry light to all corners of the globe – the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here." -- Mark Twain, 1906

"I go with Custer and will be at the death." – AP reporter Mark Kellogg's final dispatch from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

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To: Pace, Julie[JPace@ap.org]; Biesecker, Michael[MBiesecker@ap.org]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Mon 12/18/2017 5:41:25 PM
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

One more quote ...

“A similar security sweep was done for EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:29 PM
To: 'Pace, Julie' <JPace@ap.org>; 'Biesecker, Michael' <MBiesecker@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
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When coupled with the previously reported purchase of the privacy booth, it raises questions about why Pruitt feels the need to invest in courier-surveillance measures that none of his predecessors felt were necessary. EPA headquarters is a secure building with armed security and metal detectors at the entrances. Pruitt also has his personal security detail. Is the administrator concerned about the potential for electronic spying against him by the agency's own employees?

“Administrator Pruitt has received an unprecedented amount of threats against him and while the Associated Press attempts to trivialize his safety, there is nothing nefarious about security decisions made by EPA's Protective Service Detail.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

As part of the same story, we will also be mentioning the \$120,000 Definers contract and the FOIAs filed by America Rising targeted at EPA employees viewed as potentially disloyal to the Trump administration. Please provide any comment you have on those issues.

“Definers was awarded the contract to do our press clips at a rate that is \$87,000 cheaper than our previous vendor and they are providing no other services. This year, EPA has received over 10,000 public information requests from journalists and individuals across the political spectrum and we're responding to them in a manner that is fair and efficient. If you have questions regarding how Definers operates, we encourage you to contact them.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Thanks,

Michael



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Biesecker
Reporter
mbiesecker@ap.org
Twitter: @mbieseck
[Public Key](#)

1100 13 St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-4076

T 202-641-9445

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

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www.ap.org/tips

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"There are only two forces that can carry light to all corners of the globe – the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here." -- Mark Twain, 1906

"I go with Custer and will be at the death." – AP reporter Mark Kellogg's final dispatch from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

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To: Pace, Julie[JPace@ap.org]; Biesecker, Michael[MBiesecker@ap.org]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Mon 12/18/2017 6:15:32 PM
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Julie and Michael – below are the answers in bold.

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 1:05 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Jahan,

Could you please clarify how electronic surveillance would potentially imperil Administrator Pruitt’s physical security?

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“Please ask your source, who apparently has access to the database of EPA’s expenditures.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Thanks,

Michael

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:29 PM
To: Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>; Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Julie and Michael -

Below are our on-the-record responses in bold that you can attribute to me.

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 11:47 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Bug sweeping, biometric locks

Liz, Jahan,

AP will be publishing a story about \$3,000 in taxpayer funds expended in April for a contractor to sweep Administrator Pruitt’s office for electronic listening devices. We will also be reporting on spending to install biometric locks in his suite.

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“Definers was awarded the contract to do our press clips at a rate that is \$87,000 cheaper than our previous vendor and they are providing no other services. This year, EPA has received over 10,000 public information requests from journalists and individuals across the political spectrum and we're responding to them in a manner that is fair and efficient. If you have questions regarding how Definers operates, we encourage you to contact them.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Thanks,

Michael



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Biesecker

Reporter

mbiesecker@ap.org

Twitter: @mbieseck

Public Key

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Personal Phone / Ex. 6

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www.ap.org/tips

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To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Mon 12/18/2017 8:57:01 PM
Subject: RE: follow up questions on Definers Public Affairs contract

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 3:55 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: follow up questions on Definers Public Affairs contract

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 2:00 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: follow up questions on Definers Public Affairs contract

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: follow up questions on Definers Public Affairs contract

Hi folks. I have a few follow up questions on the nature of the contract with Definers I hope you can answer.

1. The contract itself notes that it was a sole-source notification, a no-bid contract. Can you explain to me why this qualified as a no-bid contract. Are they the only company that can provide this service? Unique in some way? Is there any written justification that was conducted that you can provide me?
2. You noted in an earlier response to me that in a sole-source notification a notice must be placed on federal websites to other vendors may provide proof of their ability to conduct the services. In this case, you noted, one additional vendor did so. Can you please provide the name and/or response itself of the company that responded?
3. The contract notes that Definers is self-designated as a disadvantaged business. Executives at Definers said they believe that is a clerical error and that they did not purposely claim any disadvantaged status. Can you please explain to me why the company is designated as such, how that came to be, and if any benefits were incurred to the company because of that status.

Thanks so much,
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

To: Friedman, Lisa[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 4:36:36 PM
Subject: RE: contract info

Just tried to call you.

From: Friedman, Lisa [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 10:42 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: contract info

Hi Jahan.

Here's a copy of the contract for Definers Public Affairs

<https://www.usaspending.gov/transparency/Pages/TransactionDetails.aspx?RecordID=53D2AF0E-B566-47BB-8EB4-728DAC00CEB7&AwardID=59978626&AwardType=C>

As you'll see under competition details, it says the contract was not competed, and the reason it gives is "only one source - other."

Under 'numbers of offers received' it says: 1

By contrast, for example, here is the contract with Bulletin. It says under competition details that it was "competed under SAP." (simplified acquisition procedures)

<https://www.usaspending.gov/transparency/Pages/TransactionDetails.aspx?RecordID=3B728BF9-DC6E-45F1-BF65-BA5E42ACFE4C&AwardID=49688963&AwardType=C>

So - it appears clear here that the contract with Definers was a no-bid contract. If that's not in fact the case, then I'd like to request some explanation as to why it clearly says so on the contract itself.

And if indeed, as the contract states, it was a sole-source notification, then please provide an explanation as to why.

Thanks,
Lisa

--
Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Friedman, Lisa[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 5:41:24 PM
Subject: RE: well, then on a different subject...

“How we consume the news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Friedman, Lisa [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 12:29 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: well, then on a different subject...

Got a comment about Definers dropping out of the contract?

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Friedman, Lisa[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Cc: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 5:41:40 PM
Subject: RE: well, then on a different subject...

“How we consume the news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Friedman, Lisa [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 12:29 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: well, then on a different subject...

Got a comment about Definers dropping out of the contract?

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Emily Holden[eholden@politico.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 5:44:46 PM
Subject: RE: Definers contract?

“How we consume our news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 12:43 PM
To: 'Emily Holden' <eholden@politico.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Definers contract?

“How we consume the news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Emily Holden [<mailto:eholden@politico.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 12:28 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Definers contract?

Is it true EPA is ending the contract?

Emily Holden
Reporter, energy/climate
POLITICO
eholden@politico.com

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

[@emilyhholden](https://twitter.com/emilyhholden)

To: Friedman, Lisa[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 5:45:40 PM
Subject: RE: well, then on a different subject...

“How we consume our news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 12:42 PM
To: 'Friedman, Lisa' <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: well, then on a different subject...

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Got a comment about Definers dropping out of the contract?

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Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Dennis, Brady[Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:02:26 PM
Subject: Hey

Your story says it was a no-bid contract. That is not accurate and we have this on-the-record statement regarding that “no-bid” language:

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Biesecker, Michael[MBiesecker@ap.org]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:05:06 PM
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

“How we consume our news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:02 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Julie and Michael -

Definers says its contract with EPA has been canceled. Do you wish to update Jahan’s statement from yesterday?

“Definers was awarded the contract to do our press clips at a rate that is \$87,000 cheaper than our previous vendor and they are providing no other services. This year, EPA has received over 10,000 public information requests from journalists and individuals across the political spectrum and we're responding to them in a manner that is fair and efficient. If you have questions regarding how Definers operates, we encourage you to contact them.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 5:10 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Adding Julie Pace, again. We have answered your questions with the following on-the-record statements.

“A similar security sweep was done for EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

“Administrator Pruitt has received an unprecedented amount of threats against him and while the Associated Press attempts to trivialize his safety, there is nothing nefarious about security decisions made by EPA’s Protective Service Detail.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

“Please ask your source, who apparently has access to the database of EPA’s expenditures.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 5:05 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Also confirming that you decline to comment on the specific questions in yellow below ...

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 1:27 PM
To: 'Wilcox, Jahan' <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Jahan,

Again, we are willing to include the details of the similar spending under Lisa Jackson, but we don’t have immediate access to EPA’s

records. Please provide the details of the spending to which you refer. Otherwise, we will be left to say we couldn't immediately verify the charge you claim. Could you at least provide the date, amount and contractor so we can try to check it out?

Also, just to clarify, is it you on-the-record contention that Pruitt in no way requested the bug sweep, but that this was an independent decision made solely by the EPA Protective Service Detail? Can you say concretely whether the administrator was even aware of the decision?

Thanks,

Michael

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 1:16 PM
To: Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>; Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

Julie and Michael – below are the answers in bold.

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 1:05 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Julie and Michael -

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Could you please clarify how electronic surveillance would potentially imperil Administrator Pruitt's physical security?

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Michael

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Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:29 PM
To: Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>; Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Julie and Michael -

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Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 11:47 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: Bug sweeping, biometric locks

Liz, Jahan,

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Thanks,

Michael



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Biesecker
Reporter
mbiesecker@ap.org
Twitter: @mbieseck
[Public Key](#)

1100 13 St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-4076

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To: Dennis, Brady[Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:48:29 PM
Subject: RE: Hey

I have been told that is not the case. The statement below was written by our contract office.

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

From: Dennis, Brady [mailto:Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:11 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hey

Sorry, just want to clarify. Attaching a screenshot from the online contract. It says that it was “not competed,” which seems to suggest no-bid. But you’re just saying that’s not the case?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:02 PM
To: Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>
Subject: Hey

Your story says it was a no-bid contract. That is not accurate and we have this on-the-record statement regarding that “no-bid” language:

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Jackie Toth[jackietoth@cqrollcall.com]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Molly Block[Molly.Block@mail.house.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 6:49:41 PM
Subject: RE: Q re: Definers contract

“How we consume our news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Jackie Toth [mailto:jackietoth@cqrollcall.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Molly Block <Molly.Block@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Q re: Definers contract

Hi all,

Can we get confirmation that the EPA canceled the Definers contract? When will Definers' services be fully terminated? Does the EPA intend to issue a replacement contract, and will it be opened to a bid?

Deadline's no later than 3:30pm today, if possible.

Thanks much,
Jackie

Jackie Toth
CQ Legal
Energy & Environment Reporter/Analyst
O: 202-650-6518

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

@JackieTothDC

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To: Skolnik, Samuel[sskolnik@bgov.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 7:07:13 PM
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

“How we consume our news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Skolnik, Samuel [mailto:sskolnik@bgov.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:42 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

Hi Jahan –

I just sent the following email to press@epa.gov, but wanted to make sure I got some kind of response today. My questions are regarding Definers Corp.

Any help appreciated,
Sam

--

Hi all. I cover federal contracting and procurement issues for Bloomberg Government, and am working on a daily story based off of reports that EPA today has dropped the contract with Definers Corp. to help the EPA shape press coverage of the agency, through a no-bid contract.

Questions:

- 1 – Why did EPA drop the Definers contract?
- 2 – Why was this a sole-source solicitation in the first place?
- 3 – How did EPA decide to solicit the work from Definers Corp. specifically?
- 4 – What did EPA need to do to justify this as a sole-source solicitation? Did the agency do what it needed to, to abide the Federal Acquisition Regulation and other pertinent laws? What exactly was that?
- 5 – Does EPA believe there are inherent risks to agencies, and by extension taxpayers, in no-bid contracts? If so, what are they?

I’m looking for comment (or EPA’s written thoughts, attributable to Jahan Wilcox or whoever the right person might be) by 4 p.m. today. My contact info is below.

Thank you,
Sam

:

Sam Skolnik
Senior Reporter

Bloomberg Government

Direct: (202) 416-3328

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

sskolnik@bgov.com
[@samskolnik](#)

To: Skolnik, Samuel[sskolnik@bgov.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 7:07:42 PM
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 2:07 PM
To: 'Skolnik, Samuel' <sskolnik@bgov.com>
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

“How we consume our news has changed, and we hope to find a vendor that can provide us with real-time news clips at a rate that is cheaper than our previous vendor.”

From: Skolnik, Samuel [<mailto:sskolnik@bgov.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:42 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

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To: Skolnik, Samuel[sskolnik@bgov.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 7:08:08 PM
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

“The Definers contract is for news clip compilation. The contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management and was \$87,000 cheaper than our previous media monitoring vendor while offering 24-7 news alerts once a story goes public.” – EPA spokesperson Nancy Grantham

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Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 2:08 PM
To: 'Skolnik, Samuel' <sskolnik@bgov.com>
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

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Direct: (202) 416-3328

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

sskolnik@bgov.com

@samskolnik

To: Skolnik, Samuel[sskolnik@bgov.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 7:09:07 PM
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

“Definers was awarded the contract to do our press clips at a rate that is \$87,000 cheaper than our previous vendor and they are providing no other services. This year, EPA has received over 10,000 public information requests from journalists and individuals across the political spectrum and we're responding to them in a manner that is fair and efficient. If you have questions regarding how Definers operates, we encourage you to contact them.” – EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox.

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To: 'Skolnik, Samuel' <sskolnik@bgov.com>
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

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sskolnik@bgov.com

@samskolnik

To: Skolnik, Samuel[sskolnik@bgov.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 7:09:45 PM
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

It's also not accurate to call it a no-bid contract. Below is our statement about that as well:

“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham

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Sam Skolnik
Senior Reporter

Bloomberg Government

Direct: (202) 416-3328

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

sskolnik@bgov.com

@samskolnik

To: Lipton, Eric[lipton@nytimes.com]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Cc: Lisa Friedman[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 8:34:10 PM
Subject: RE: Question about FOIA responses here

Can you send me the 17 requests and very unusual compared to ...

From: Lipton, Eric [mailto:lipton@nytimes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 3:25 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Subject: Question about FOIA responses here

The response rate that Allan Blutstein had for his FOIAs here seems very unusual.

Here are those stats for 2017:

His 2017 HQ filings: 17 total requests. 8 closed, 5 full grants, 3 no responsive docs. 9 on 'assignment'

2017 numbers for regional EPA offices:

R1: 4 requests. 4 closed. 1 full grant, 3 no responsive docs
R2: 2 requests. 2 closed, 2 no responsive docs
R3: 4 requests. 1 still being processed. 3 closed, 2 no responsive docs, 1 withdrawn
R4: 2 requests. 2 closed, 1 full grant, 1 partial grant/partial denial
R5: 4 requests. 4 closed, 3 no responsive docs, 1 full grant (O'Grady docs)
R6: 3 requests. 3 closed, 1 no responsive docs, 2 full grants
R7: 2 requests. 2 closed, 2 no responsive docs
R8: 2 requests. 2 closed, 1 no responsive docs, 1 full grant
R9: 2 requests. 2 closed, 2 no responsive docs
R10: 3 requests. 3 closed, 2 no responsive docs, 1 partial grant/partial denial (released 62 records re: Michael Cox)

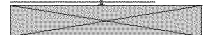
Here are my questions:

- 1) Did anyone at the EPA instruct the agency FOIA staff to accelerate processing of these FOIA responses?
- 2) Was Mr. Pruitt or members of his staff, including Liz Bowman and Jahan Wilcox or Samantha Dravis and Ryan Jackson or others on his staff, notified that these FOIAs had been filed and did any of these individuals participate in anyway in the handling of these FOIAs?
- 3) Why did Allan Blutstein get such fast turnaround on his FOIAs. Was it based on any kind of favoritism?

Thanks in advance for your help. A response this afternoon is needed.

Eric

Eric Lipton



Washington Bureau
202 862 0448 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thur 9/28/2017 7:02:06 PM
Subject: Definers -- Clips

Where are we on this and when can we get this going? Today is a day where we could really use their help capturing clips in real time. This is very important and our wait and the process to do this has been way too long. Thank you!

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Personal Phone / Ex. 6

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Skolnik, Samuel
Sent: Tue 12/19/2017 7:12:32 PM
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

Jahan – Thanks very much for these statements. Very helpful for my story. If I have follow-ups I’ll be back in touch.

Cheers,
Sam Skolnik

.....

Sam Skolnik
Senior Reporter

Bloomberg Government

Direct: (202) 416-3328

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

sskolnik@bgov.com
[@samskolnik](#)

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 2:10 PM
To: Skolnik, Samuel <sskolnik@bgov.com>
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

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To: 'Skolnik, Samuel' <sskolnik@bgov.com>
Subject: RE: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

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To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Time-sensitive questions from Bloomberg Government

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Sam Skolnik
Senior Reporter

Bloomberg Government

Direct: (202) 416-3328

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

sskolnik@bgov.com

@samskolnik

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thur 9/28/2017 11:39:12 PM
Subject: Re: Definers -- Clips

Thx

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 7:17 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

<image1.PNG>

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 6:33 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Jahan

Can you forward me the screen shot so I can send it to contracts thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:27 PM
To: Joe Pounder <jpounder@definerscorp.com>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>;
Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Definers -- Clips

Great. Adding Nancy and Liz.

On Sep 28, 2017, at 4:11 PM, Joe Pounder <jpounder@definerscorp.com> wrote:

We're fully registered...

<Screen Shot 2017-09-28 at 4.23.59 PM.png>

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 3:29 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy
<Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Definers -- Clips

HI –

Working with contracts on this – here is the remaining issue that the contracting officer brought to me yesterday --

Specifically, the vendor is not registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). In order for any vendor to receive a contract from the federal government, they must be registered in this system. The vendor seems to be reluctant to register.

George had been working with the vendor on this. I have a call into the vendor as they may need assistance in completing the forms.

Will update you as soon as I hear from the vendor.

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (mobile)

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:02 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Definers -- Clips
Importance: High

Where are we on this and when can we get this going? Today is a day where we could really use their help capturing clips in real time. This is very important and our wait and the process to do this has been way too long. Thank you!

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: **Personal Phone / Ex. 6**
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

--

Joe Pounder
jpounder@definercorp.com
571-290-5460

To: Leopold, Matt (OGC)[Leopold.Matt@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wed 4/25/2018 9:32:51 PM
Subject: FW: Request for comment on hearings

From: Friedman, Lisa [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 7:32 AM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Request for comment on hearings

Hi Liz & Jahan,

I'm running a story today that advances the congressional hearings at which Mr. Pruitt will testify Thursday.

The story will include and make reference to a document that I have, entitled "Hot Topics." The story will characterize this document as outlining Mr. Pruitt's potential responses to likely questions during the hearings.

Can you tell me who drafted this document? I'd also like to get a comment on whether it accurately describes answers that Mr. Pruitt has been prepped by staff to give.

I won't attach the actual document but for purposes of verifying its validity with you, this with you it begins:

HOT TOPICS

Condo
Kevin Minoli, EPA's principal deputy general counsel, in a March 30 memo determined that the rate for 30 consecutive days would have equated to a monthly rent of \$1,500. Minoli described that as "reasonable market value." He also found it did not constitute a "prohibited gift." I would be happy to provide that memo to your staff.

These, according to the document, are some of the other topics he is prepared to address — several of which I will make reference to in the story:

SCIF; Sweeping the office; Biometric Locks; Bullet proof vehicles and tires; Office Decoration; Netjets; G7 Trip; Staffing (Raises; Samantha Dravis; Alleged Reassignment of Staff); Sue and Settle; Super Fund Task Force; Travel; First Class Travel; Morocco; Non-Commercial Flights; Homebuilders Association Hotel; Advisory Panels (membership, grants); Definers Contract; Chlorpyrifos; Climate change strategic plan; Enforcement; Funding; DOJ Funding; emails; Environmental Justice; War on Lead; IRIS; grants process; meetings with industry; Narragansett Bay; Regulatory Task Force; Reorganizations; and VERA/VisP.

Finally, the story will point out that, according to the preparations shown in this document, Mr. Pruitt may say that other people were responsible for the bulk of the recent spending and ethics issues like frequent first class travel, the SCIF and pay raises.

I will need a comment on this by 11 a.m, and of course if you have any other comment on Mr. Pruitt's plans for testifying before Congress tomorrow I will certainly include. I'll be out of pocket for the next hour but you can also call me on my cell after 8:30 a.m. if you'd like to speak directly.

Thanks so much,

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: White, Elizabeth
Sent: Wed 5/9/2018 3:56:15 PM
Subject: FW: Definers Oversight response

FYI....

Beth White
Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-1781 direct

Personal Phone / Ex. 6

 cell

From: Aarons, Kyle
Sent: Wednesday, May 9, 2018 11:55 AM
To: White, Elizabeth <white.elizabeth@epa.gov>; Burke, Marcella <burke.marcella@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>
Cc: Youngblood, Charlotte <Youngblood.Charlotte@epa.gov>; Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>; Feeley, Drew (Robert) <Feeley.Drew@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Definers Oversight response

Hi all – Just FYI, Definers docs are

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks,
Kyle

Kyle Aarons
Congressional Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-7351

From: White, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 5:36 PM
To: Aarons, Kyle <Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Definers Oversight response

Sent from my iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Baptist, Erik" <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>
Date: April 25, 2018 at 4:59:09 PM EDT
To: "Burke, Marcella" <burke.marcella@epa.gov>
Cc: "White, Elizabeth" <white.elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Feeley, Drew (Robert)" <Feeley.Drew@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Definers Oversight response

I spoke with Christian, and he agreed that

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 25, 2018, at 4:57 PM, Burke, Marcella <burke.marcella@epa.gov> wrote:

Beth - I'm not on the email from Kyle, so would you please ask

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

? Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 25, 2018, at 4:07 PM, White, Elizabeth <white.elizabeth@epa.gov> wrote:

FYI - I think **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Beth White
Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-1781 direct
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 cell

From: Aarons, Kyle
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 4:01 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Bigioni, Neil <bigioni.neil@epa.gov>; White, Elizabeth <white.elizabeth@epa.gov>; Walker, Denise <Walker.Denise@epa.gov>; Kelly, Lynn <Kelly.Lynn@epa.gov>; Hitchens, Lynnann <hitchens.lynnann@epa.gov>; Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>
Cc: White, Elizabeth <white.elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Definers Oversight response

Hi all – I've finally had a chance to review the Definers documents set for FOIA release. It appears we have **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thank you,
Kyle

Kyle Aarons
Congressional Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-7351

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 7:02 PM
To: Bigioni, Neil <bigioni.neil@epa.gov<<mailto:bigioni.neil@epa.gov>>>; White, Elizabeth <white.elizabeth@epa.gov<<mailto:white.elizabeth@epa.gov>>>; Walker, Denise <Walker.Denise@epa.gov<<mailto:Walker.Denise@epa.gov>>>; Kelly, Lynn <Kelly.Lynn@epa.gov<<mailto:Kelly.Lynn@epa.gov>>>; Hitchens, Lynnann <hitchens.lynnann@epa.gov<<mailto:hitchens.lynnann@epa.gov>>>; Vizian, Donna <Vizian.Donna@epa.gov<<mailto:Vizian.Donna@epa.gov>>>; Aarons, Kyle <Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov<<mailto:Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov>>>; Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov<<mailto:Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>>>
Cc: White, Elizabeth <white.elizabeth@epa.gov<<mailto:white.elizabeth@epa.gov>>>
Subject: FW: Definers Oversight response

This is related to the OARM foia release I flagged for OGC/OEX earlier today –

seems we need to coordinate? Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
Personal Phone / Ex. 6 (desk)
202-253-7056 (mobile)

From: Knapp, Kristien
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 3:22 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy
<Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov<<mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>>>
Cc: Aarons, Kyle <Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov<<mailto:Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov>>>
Subject: Definers Oversight response

Hi Nancy,

Our response to congressional oversight requests about the Definers contract is now ready for signature. I'm attaching the 3 incoming letters, our responses and the redacted documents that we'll send as enclosures. This response has been reviewed and approved by OARM, OGC, and OCIR. Please let us know if you or Liz have any feedback or questions. I'd be happy to print it out for Liz to sign if you can point me towards OPA letterhead. My understanding is

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks,
Kristien

Kristien Knapp
Legislative and Oversight Counsel
Office of Congressional Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-3277

<Definers contract documents.pdf>

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Dolph, Becky[Dolph.Becky@epa.gov]
From: Walker, Denise
Sent: Wed 12/20/2017 7:30:00 PM
Subject: RE: Data on FOIA response rates
All Allan Blutstein FOIA requests Simple Track 12202017.xls

Jahan:

These 18 are Simple Track.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 10:22 AM
To: Dolph, Becky <Dolph.Becky@epa.gov>; Walker, Denise <Walker.Denise@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Data on FOIA response rates
Importance: High

Can you tell me which of the attached requests are simple and which ones are complex?

From: Lipton, Eric [mailto:lipton@nytimes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:35 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Subject: Re: Data on FOIA response rates

It is attached here

I guess it comes down to how the requests are defined, as Simple or Complex

I was just struck as I looked at the responses how quickly they happened.

But I guess one could argue that they were "simple" requests and so they were processed quickly

Eric Lipton



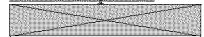
Washington Bureau
202 862 0448 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 mobile
lipton@nytimes.com

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 4:26 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:
This is helpful. Now we know what the standard is. What were the 17 requests?

From: Lipton, Eric [mailto:lipton@nytimes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:02 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Subject: Data on FOIA response rates

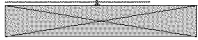
Eric Lipton



Washington Bureau
202 862 0448 office

Personal Phone / Ex. 6 mobile
lipton@nytimes.com

Eric Lipton



Washington Bureau

202 862 0448 office

202 370 7951 mobile

lipton@nytimes.com

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Joe Pounder
Sent: Thur 9/28/2017 8:10:14 PM
Subject: Re: FW: Definers -- Clips

We're fully registered...

Registration Details for Complete Record

Entity Name: DEFINERS CORP

DUNS Number:

076234313

CAGE:

7YAE9

Address:

1500 WILSON BLVD # 5

ARLINGTON, VA 22209-2458

UNITED STATES

Purpose of Registration:

All Awards

Registration Status:

Active

Expiration Date:

08/31/2018

Address Update Required:

No

UPDATE ENTITY

VIEW

DEACTIVATE

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 3:29 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Definers -- Clips

HI –

Working with contracts on this – here is the remaining issue that the contracting officer brought to me yesterday --